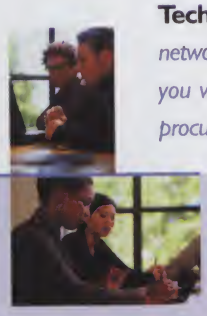
Technology Open Bid *e*

TechnologyOBX™ is a neutral, secure and global transaction network for the IT industry. The Open Bid *e*Xchange™ empowers buyers and sellers to improve profit margins and productivity, while eliminating supply-chain inefficiencies. Built with superior technology and domain expertise, worldwide affiliate *e*Xchanges bring buyers and sellers closer than ever...*and at no charge to buyers, how can you afford not to participate?*

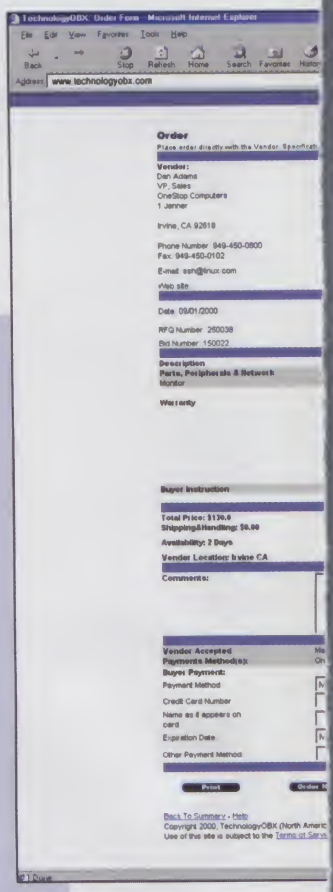


Buyer Benefits

Extend Your Global Reach

Someone, somewhere in the IT universe has what you want and is willing to supply it to you on your terms.

TechnologyOBX™ *connects you to a network of qualified suppliers and equips you with powerful e-tools to facilitate procurement. All transactions can be completed securely and efficiently on-line 24/7. Global sourcing is only one simple click away.*



Increase Internal Workflow Efficiency

The ideal situation is to keep pace with the Internet age, while staying in the comfort zone of your current business practice.

TechnologyOBX™ *can be incorporated into your current procurement workflow seamlessly. From requisition to order configuration, budget approval and order tracking to receiving instructions. ALL of this can be integrated with just a few clicks!*

Improve Profit Margin and Pricing Competitiveness

As a re-seller, deciding between sacrificing your profit margin and forfeiting a sales opportunity is a tough decision.

TechnologyOBX™ *dynamic pricing system delivers the best cost to you. It improves your bottom line and provides flexibility in your pricing strategy.*

RFQ (Request for Quote)

*The on-line RFQ process allows you - the buyer, the freedom to define **ALL** elements of your purchase request, such as type of product, make, key features and more.*

The Order

*The on-line order form concludes the bid process, delineating **ALL** elements of the bid you have selected. Final payment and shipment decisions are made at this point in the process.*

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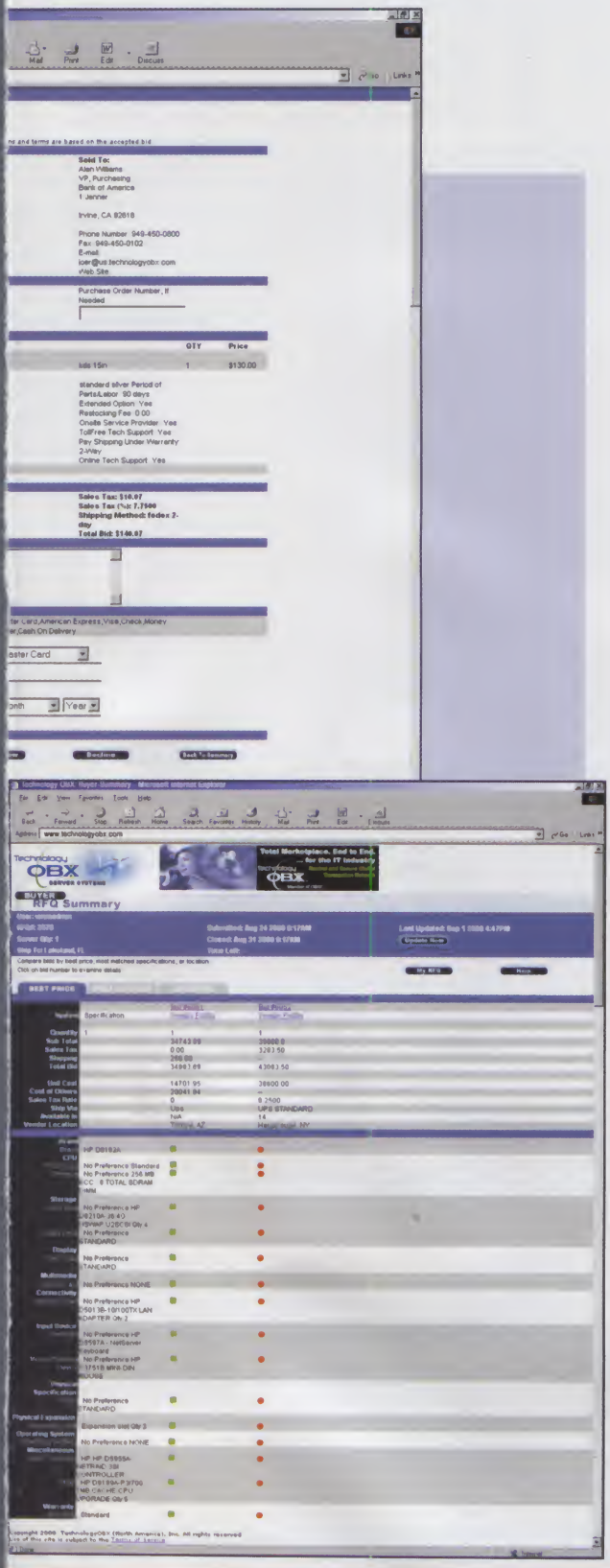

VendorBenefits

Global Access to Buyers

TechnologyOBX™ *is a fully integrated global transaction network that gives vendors access to buyers around the world 24/7. By having more access, the probability of higher profit margins is greater than ever before. It also enables smooth transactions that can be concluded on the network.*

Increase Sales Opportunities

Traditionally, a great deal of time and money are allocated to sales and marketing efforts, without assurance that it will pay off with concluded sales.

TechnologyOBX™ *provides vendors with access to a vast supply of sales opportunities. Buyers requesting quotes (RFQ's) from you are most likely seeking the products you offer, therefore the opportunity to win and conclude additional sales is greater.*

Stay Ahead of the Competition

Until now, effective methods for Vendors to remain competitive have been limited.

TechnologyOBX™ *provides real-time, competitive market information on a 24/7 basis. Compare price and feature information of a competitor during the RFQ bidding process, without investing extra time and money.*

Become Instantly *e*-Commerce Ready

With other B2B solutions, millions of dollars are required to implement their system. It usually requires the installation and maintenance of hardware and/or software as well.

TechnologyOBX™ *allows vendors to instantly become e-commerce ready. An Internet connection is all that is needed to conduct business on-line!*

Technology OBX™

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November 13, 2000 Las Vegas, NV

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Bill Millard - ComputerLand '97
Steve Wozniak - Apple '98
John Warnock - Adobe '98
Ed Raymund - Tech Data '97
Bronson Ingram - Ingram Micro '98
Tim Berners-Lee -WWW '98
William Hewlett - HP '97
Ray Ozzie - Lotus '99
Bill Gates - Microsoft '97
Steve Jobs - Apple '97
Stan Shih - Acer '99
Jeff Hawkins - 3Com '99
Bill Joy - Sun '99
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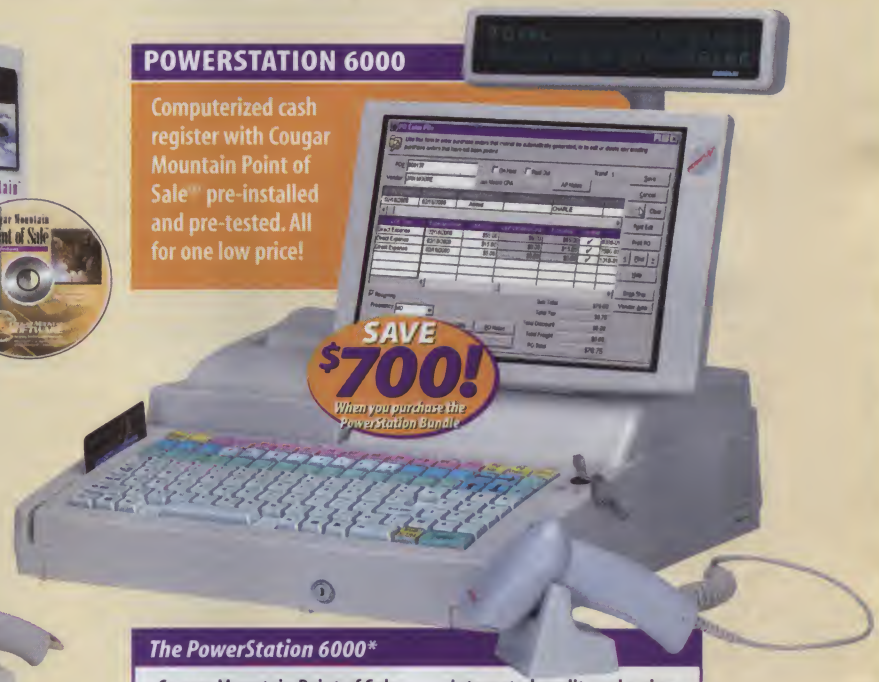
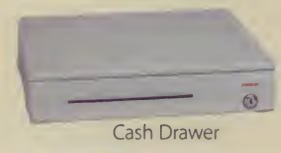
POWERSTATION 6000

Computerized cash register with Cougar Mountain Point of Sale® pre-installed and pre-tested. All for one low price!

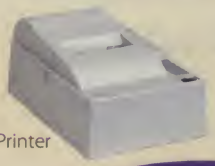


SAVE $700! When you purchase the PowerStation Bundle

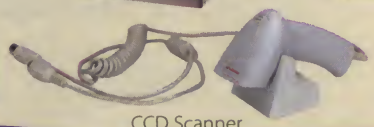


Cash Drawer

Customer Display



Receipt Printer



CCD Scanner

TURN YOUR COMPUTER INTO A CASH REGISTER!

The POS PowerPack

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- Cash drawer
- Receipt Printer

All this for only: $1195.00

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- Receipt Printer
- CCD Scanner
- Customer Display

All this for only: $1495.00

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The PowerStation 6000*

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- Bar code scanning (optional)
- Integrated credit card swipe (optional)
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Millennia 400	$115.00	$71.99
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Millennia MAX 450	$115.00	$71.99
Gateway	Kingston	**Crucial**
G6-450	$115.00	$71.99
G6-400	$115.00	$71.99
Performance 450	$115.00	$71.99
IBM	Kingston	**Crucial**
Aptiva (2153) Model E2U	$111.00	$71.99
Aptiva (2139) Model E5D	$111.00	$71.99
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Pavilion 4535	$126.00	$71.99
Kayak XU PC Workstation 440BX Chipset	$143.00	$89.99
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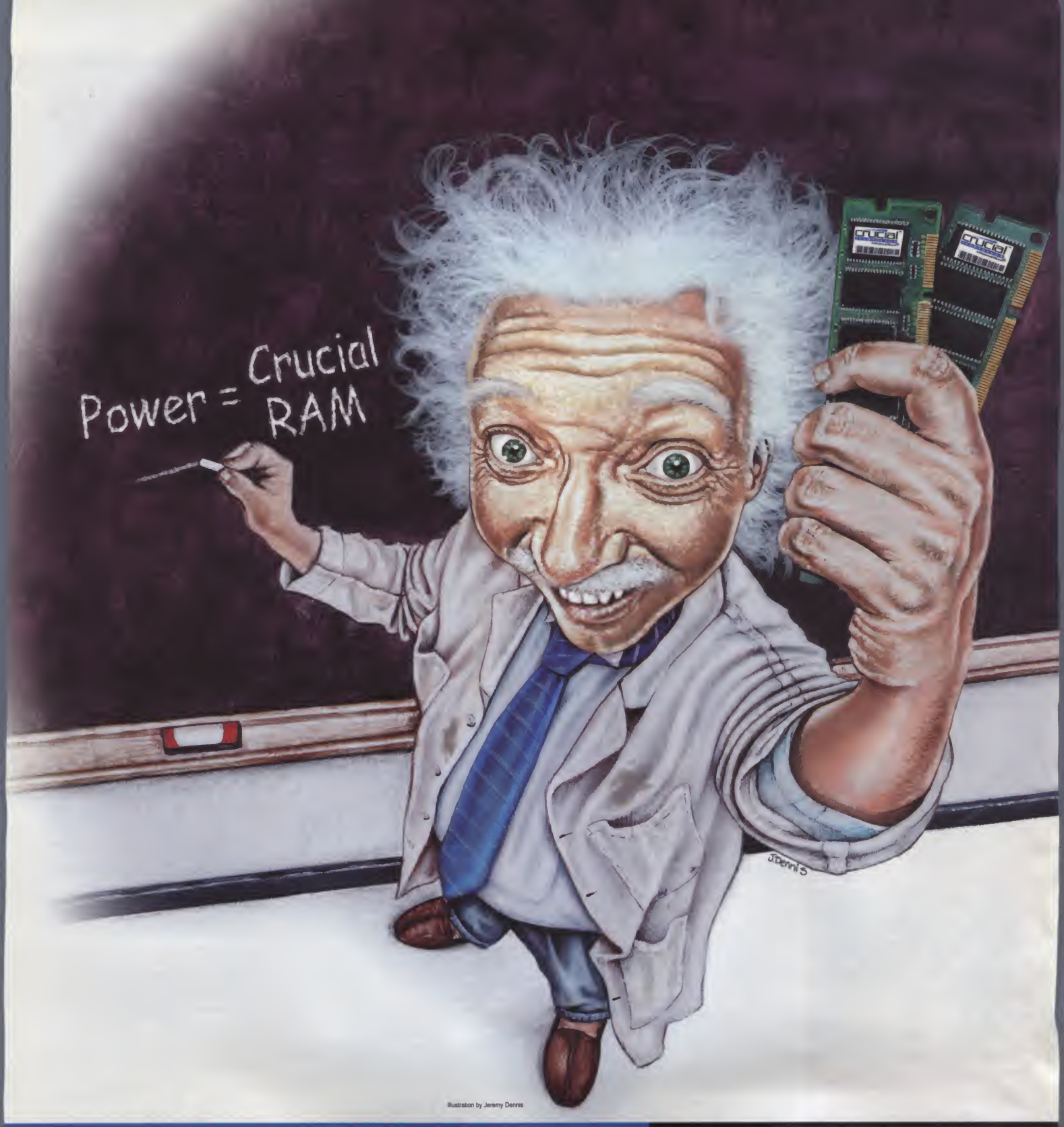

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#1 Aug 2000 Best Buy

#2 May 2000 Best Buy

#3 Dec 1999 Best Buy
#4 Nov 1999 Best Buy

#5 May 1999 Best Buy

Computer Buyer's Guide Best Buy -Oct 2000
"We definitely would call it terrific, especially with regard to the money that it means."

Best Buy Award -Aug 2000 Computer Shopper
"Not everything from image editing to game playing, the ABS™ Performance 2 rules."

Best Buy Award -May 2000 Computer Shopper
"ABS™ has done an outstanding job of building its Performance Alpha System."

Cnet Editor's Choice -Jan 2000
"ABS™ provides as much power as you could hope for in a low-cost PC."

Best Buy Award -Dec 1999 Computer Shopper
"ABS™ Supreme DVD System 3 is made from some of the best stuff on Earth."

Best Buy Award -Nov 1999 Computer Shopper
"If there ever was too much of a good thing, the ABS™ Supreme DVD-1 is it."

PC World Top 5 Power Home PC -Oct 2000
"Can handle just about any task."

PC World Top 10 Power PC -Sept 2000
"For a power user interested in gaming or audio manipulation."

Computer Buyer's Guide Best Buy -Feb 2000
"The 3D1 GS is a capable system. It is ideal for both home and SOHO users."

5X Best Buy Winner

Aug 2000, May 2000, Dec 1999, Nov 1999, & May 1999 Computer Shopper Magazine

buyabs.com

ABS™ PERFORMANCE 3

★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -Aug 2000
- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory at 133MHz
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 12X DVD-ROM
- ☆ Add 8X4X32 CD ReWritable Drive @$169
- **Nvidia GeForce II MX 32MB SDR 128Bits 4X AGP**
- 17" .27mm DP 1280x1024 Color Monitor, MPR II
- ☆ Upgrade to ViewSonic 17" .26mm DP Monitor @$59
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Altec Lansing ACS4S.2 Subwoofer Speaker System
- ZOOM S6K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem & Mic
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- Free Software: Corel Wordperfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service $29

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **$1249** #4135
800MHz **$1279** #4134 933MHz **$1489** #4132
866MHz **$1379** #4133 1GHz **$1639** #4131

ABS™ PERFORMANCE ALPHA

★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -May 2000
- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory at 133MHz
- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- **New 16X DVD-ROM**
- **8X4X32 CD-ReWritable Drive**
- **Nvidia GeForce II GTS 32MB DDR 4X AGP**
- ☆ Upgrade to Nvidia GeForce II GTS w/64MB DDR 4X AGP @$69
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- **Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic**
- Cambridge SoundWorks Digital Subwoofer Sound System
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733MHz **$1849** #4145
800MHz **$1879** #4144 933MHz **$2059** #4142
866MHz **$1949** #4143 1GHz **$2199** #4141

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- **New 16X DVD-ROM**
- **12X10X32 CD-ReWritable Drive**
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- **Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Platinum Sound Card & Mic**
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Surround Sound System
- USR PCI Hardware S6K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
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- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
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800MHz **$2259** #4154
866MHz **$2329** #4153 1GHz **$2589** #4151
933MHz **$2439** #4152 1.13GHz **$2889** #4150

ABS™ SUPREME 3D-1 GS

★ Computer Buyer's Guide Best Buy -Feb 2000
- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory at 133MHz
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB 4X AGP Video Card OpenGL, DirectX, Direct 3D Support
- **8X4X32 CD-ReWritable Drive**
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- ☆ Upgrade to ViewSonic 19" .26mm DP Monitor @$75
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster PCI128 Sound Card & Mic
- Altec Lansing ACS33 Subwoofer Speaker System
- ZOOM S6K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem & Mic
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- Free Software: Corel Wordperfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service $29

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **$1299** #4085
800MHz **$1329** #4084 933MHz **$1549** #4082
866MHz **$1439** #4083 1GHz **$1699** #4081

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- 40GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- **New 16X DVD-ROM**
- **12X10X32 CD-ReWritable Drive**
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Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **$1969** #4175
800MHz **$1999** #4174 933MHz **$2189** #4172
866MHz **$2079** #4173 1GHz **$2339** #4171

ABS™ SUPREME 3D SYSTEM

- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- Creative S2X CD-ROM Drive
- ☆ Upgrade to 12X DVD ROM @$79
- Intel Integrated AGP Graphics
- 17" .27mm DP 1280x1024 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative CTS880 Integrated PCI Sound
- Altec Lansing ACS33 Subwoofer Speaker System
- ZOOM S6K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem & Mic
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 4USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ☆ Add 8X4X32 CD-ReWritable Drive @$179
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service $29

Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache
633MHz **$899** #4028
667MHz **$929** #4027 700MHz **$949** #4026
Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **$1029** #4025 800MHz **$1049** #4024

ABS™ SUPREME DVD 1

★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -May, Nov 1999
- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory at 133MHz
- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 12X DVD-ROM
- **8X4X32 CD-ReWriter Drive**
- **Nvidia GeForce II MX 32MB SDR 128Bits 4X AGP**
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Digital Surround Sound
- USR PCI Hardware S6K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- MS Internet Keyboard w/1 key web access & MS IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service $29

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **$1769** #4115
800MHz **$1799** #4114 933MHz **$1989** #4112
866MHz **$1879** #4113 1GHz **$2139** #4111

ABS™ SUPREME DVD 3

★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -Dec 1999
- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory at 133MHz
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 12X DVD-ROM
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB 4X AGP Video Card OpenGL, DirectX, Direct 3D Support
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster PCI128 Sound Card & Mic
- Altec Lansing ACS54 5-Piece Stereo Speaker System w/Powered Subwoofer
- ZOOM S6K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem & Mic
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- Free Software: Corel Wordperfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service $29

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **$1299** #4125
800MHz **$1329** #4124 933MHz **$1519** #4122
866MHz **$1399** #4123 1GHz **$1669** #4121

ABS™ MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM 6

★ CNet Editor's Choice -Jan 2000
- 64MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 10GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 12X DVD-ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert98 8MB AGP Video Card 1600x1200x16.7 Million Color
- 15" Color 1024x768Max Monitor
- ☆ Upgrade to 17" .27mm DP 1280x1024 Monitor @$79
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster PCI128 Sound Card & Mic
- Labtec LCS-1050 Powered Stereo Speakers
- ZOOM S6K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 2S,1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service $29

Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache
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667MHz **$869** #4067 700MHz **$889** #4066
Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **$919** #4065 800MHz **$949** #4064

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- ★Extensive International Safety and EMC regulatory approvals
- ★300Watts (sustained) Power Supply
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- Integrated EtherExpress Pro+10/100
- Integrated SCSI Dual Channel Ultra/Wide and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controller
- Adaptec RAID Controller 133U2 w/CI/O Management Software
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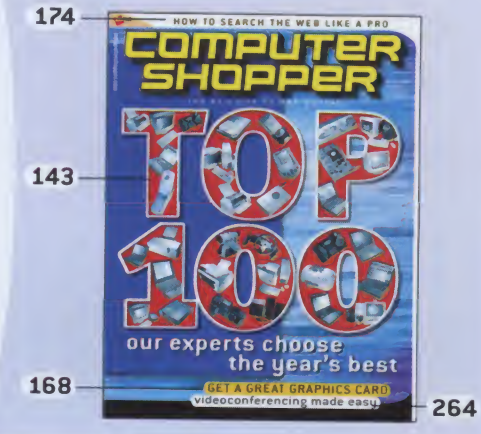

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Windows 98 Second Edition
Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition
Modular Ultrabay™ 2000
Li-Ion 6-cell battery
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ViewSonic leads the industry with the new VP150m flat panel display. This 3X-LCD panel delivers video response up to three times faster than traditional panels to enhance your visual computing experience when viewing DVD movies, surfing the Internet or gaming. Equipped with SuperClearMVA™ screen technology, this 15.0" panel delivers high contrast and brilliant color for photo like image quality. The VP150m features OptiSync™ technology to support multiple inputs that feature precise display synchronization to any analog or digital computer signal. This feature rich ViewPanel® has super wide 160° viewing angles, two powerful 3w speakers, PerfectPortrait™ pivot capability enabling users to view documents in either landscape or portrait modes and a true resolution of 1,024 x 768. The VP150m is the clear choice when choosing your new flat panel display.

ViewPanel® Series

ViewSonic Model	Screen Viewable	Special Feature	Maximum Resolution	Analog Interface	Bezel Integrated Speakers
VP140	14.1	WALL MOUNTABLE	1024 x 768	ANALOG	
VG150	15.0	WALL MOUNTABLE	1024 x 768	YES	
VP150m	15.0	PIVOT	1024 x 768	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	YES
VG151†	15.0	PIVOT	1024 x 768	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	
VP151†	15.0	COMPOSITE VIDEO	1280 x 1024	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	YES
VG175	17.4	PIVOT	1280 x 1024	ANALOG	
VG181	18.1	PIVOT	1280 x 1024	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	
VP181†	18.1	COMPOSITE VIDEO	1600 x 1200	DIGITAL/ ANALOG	YES

†Currently audio, composite video and picture-in-picture features are supported via analog only. VG150 is also available in black.

Professional Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch/ Aperture Grille Pitch	Maximum Resolution	TCO Low Radiation
PF77 #^	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF775 #	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PS775 *	17/16.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF790 #	19/18.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF795 #	19/18.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1920 x 1440	TCO '99
P810	21/20.0	0.22	1800 x 1440	TCO '99
P815**	21/20.0	0.22	1800 x 1440	TCO '99
PF815 #	22/20.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1920 x 1440	TCO '99

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(800) 888-8583 Copyright © 2000, ViewSonic Corporation. All rights reserved. Specifications subject to change without notice. Corporate names and trademarks stated herein are the property of their respective companies. **USB is compatible with Windows® 98 and also requires USB-equipped computers and peripheral devices. † Currently, audio, composite video and picture-in-picture features are supported via analog only.

nest full of choices.

E2® Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	OnView®	Low Radiation
E655	15/13.8	0.24	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '92
E70	17/16.0	0.24	1280 x 1024	YES	MPR-II
EF70 #	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1280 x 1024	YES	MPR-II
E771	17/16.0	0.24	1280 x 1024	YES	MPR-II
E773	17/16.0	0.23	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '99
E790 ∞	19/18.0	0.23	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '95

PerfectFlat® ∞Also available in black bezel

Graphics Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	OnView Controls	TCO Low Radiation
G773	17/16.0	0.22	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '92
GS773*	17/16.0	0.22	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '92
GS790*	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '92
G810	21/20.0	0.21	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '99
GS815*	21/20.0	0.21	1920 x 1440	YES	TCO '99

*Short Depth Monitor

MultiMedia Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	TCO Low Radiation	Speakers
M50	15/13.8	0.24	1280 x 1024	TCO '92	2-watt (X2)
M70 ∞	17/16.0	0.24	1280 x 1024	TCO '92	2-watt (X2)
G70m ∞	17/16.0	0.23	1280 x 1024	TCO '99	3-watt (X2)
G90m	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1200	TCO '99	3-watt (X2)

∞Also available in black bezel

Optiquest® Powered by ViewSonic®

Model	CRT Size/ Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	Screen Treatment
Q41	14/13.2	0.24	1024 x 768	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare
Q51	15/13.8	0.24	1024 x 768	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare
Q55	15/13.8	0.24	1280 x 1024	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q71	17/16.0	0.23	1280 x 1024	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q75	17/16.0	0.21	1600 x 1200	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q95	19/18.0	0.23	1600 x 1200	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q115	21/19.6	0.22	1600 x 1200	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection

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For more information on the company that's won over 600 industry awards, call one of the listed ViewSonic dealers or visit ViewSonic at: www.ViewSonic.com/shopper

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ZDNet

from the editor

JANICE CHEN

Our Best to You

Every tech-savvy person knows that there are two tasks our less knowledgeable friends, family, and co-workers will inevitably burden us with: free tech support, and tips on which computer products to buy.

But to provide really useful shopping advice, you'd have to be on top of the thousands of new products released every year. Fortunately, we do that for you: Our editors have compiled *Computer Shopper's* annual list of the Top 100 products of the year (p. 143).

After hours of sometimes-testy deliberation, we completed the herculean task of choosing only the best of this year's offerings. As usual, some of us had our favorites, and others challenged them. We tossed

around pros and cons, and often went back to the products themselves to make the final decision. When even that didn't work, we put each candidate to the truest test, asking each other "but would you buy it?"

The Desktop Systems we chose reflect this year's market changes. Unprecedented vendor support for AMD chips has kept Intel on its toes and PC pricing competitive for entry-level and power users alike. And systems from Compaq, Sony, and IBM exemplify how sleek design has finally become a key differentiator. In fact, among our Notebooks—which range from desktop replacements to ultraslim models—you'll see new attention to design details like shape, materials, and color.

The year 2000 also has been good to the traveling technologist. Among our Mobile Products are tempting gadgets like Web phones and MP3 players, as well as slick new PDAs.

Hardware and Software (including Games) continue to comprise the core of our list. Besides the usual complement of printers and digital cameras, this year's hardware includes innovative newcomers such as Compaq's Internet appliance and S3's Rio Digital Audio Receiver. And like all things digital, software has been revolutionized by the Internet. Whatever the application, chances are this year's choice either includes new Web-enhanced features or is downloadable from the Net.

In fact, we've introduced a new category of Top 100 winners, Web Services. With the proliferation of broadband access, the Net has become more than a thoroughfare for public information. These services let you manage personal information, grab additional file-storage space, even run applications via the Web. Best of all, they're often gratis.

Rounding out the list are our selections for New Technologies. Industry-altering innovations such as Napster and Transmeta's Crusoe chip, as well as personal-TV products like ReplayTV and TiVo, prove that Y2K had a lot more to offer than just bugs.

Personal-TV products are just one way the PC industry is changing the way we watch television. For a broader view of how TV, the Internet, and PCs are converging, see our feature "Media Merger" on p. 186.

Of course, knowing about the coolest products doesn't amount to much if you don't know where to buy them, so don't miss our selection of top shopping sites. Find this month's Best Site winners listed on p. 73, and turn to our Web Buyer section beginning on p. 201 for reviews of hundreds of other Web shopping sites.

And lest you think we've forgotten about those panicked tech-support calls you've been getting from your parents, check out our monthly Help & How-To section. Our Tune-Up article this month (p. 264) walks you through setting up a desktop system for videoconferencing, and Alfred Poor answers common—and not-so-common—computing conundrums on p. 268.

janice_chen@zdnet.com

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DON'T LOG OFF

Regarding your September feature on free ISPs ("Freedom Has Its Price," p. 188), my family has used freei for months. The little ad bar on my screen never bothered me; it was pretty small compared to my computer screen. I even clicked on a few of the advertisements. I really liked the set-up, and the Internet connection was just as quick as any we've used before. Until a few weeks ago, everything was working fine, then, pow! Error messages every time we logged off.

PENNY NORRIS

Freedom
Has Its Price

Free access providers don't want your money—they want your personal info and your screen space. Are you willing to give it up?

By Donna Tapellini

JUNO GOT A BAD RAP

Reading Donna Tapellini's feature "Freedom Has Its Price," I can't help but hear the politician's drumbeat, "It's too risky." Unfortunately, we have to put up with annoying ads eating up space, and are then deluged with e-mail from vendors. But I'm afraid she's off the mark about Juno. I've been a contented Juno user for four years. I pay a $2.95 monthly fee for the attachment feature that comes with Juno Gold. When I log on I'm confronted with one or two occasional ads, but often none. I just click them off and go on with my e-mail. And I've never received any unwanted mail as a result of using Juno.

WILLIAM W. CRIDLAND

EDUCATE THE POLITICIANS

I wish to acknowledge Alice Hill and Bill O'Brien's well-written "Hard Edge" column (September, p. 266). While I enjoyed the column in its entirety, the "Girls Catched Naked" section should be mandatory reading for educational policy-makers. I agree completely with the writers' view of the use of the Internet and computers.

BERNIE ELKO

TRAVELS WITH SHOPPER

My family and I have just returned from a vacation to Auckland, Waiheke Island, Rangitoto Island, and Devonport, New Zealand, and what made the long flight enjoyable was bringing along some back issues of *Computer Shopper.* It was a pleasant surprise to return and find your latest issue waiting for me at Borders Books, with the spectacular article "Versatile Video Cameras for Your PC Desktop" (September, p. 115). I've been shopping around for the right video camera for my PC, and because of this article, I've been led down the right path. I want to thank you for delivering information such as this quickly, with an expert's eye for the best products.

PAUL DALE ROBERTS

ARE WE TALKING T-BIRD?

I read your feature "Computing at Giga Speed" (September, p. 156) and wonder whether we're comparing apples to apples or apples to oranges regarding the Athlon processor vs. the Pentium III. Are we talking about the original Athlon or the new Thunderbird? I'm considering a new Athlon Thunderbird system because it's quite a bit cheaper than a comparable Pentium III system, but I haven't seen any comparisons of these two chips. Thanks for the great information in your magazine.

MARK MILLER

Given the lead times needed for print media, we couldn't get a Thunderbird Athlon in time. The AMD-powered systems featured original Athlons with off-die L2 cache. —Ed.

<COMING NEXT MONTH>

Nifty Gift Guide

Doing your holiday shopping on the Web can save you time and money. We'll tell you which sites have interesting, unusual gifts, and how to make sure your purchases arrive before the big day.

Modern Music

It's time to dust off your old LPs and cassette tapes, and revitalize your audio collection. We show you how to transfer analog audio to CD-R discs.

Traveling Tunes

Playing MP3 files on your desktop is okay, but to get the most out of your MP3 music, you need a portable player. Whether you're an MP3 newbie or a veteran archivist, check out our hands-on look at five second-generation players.

You've Got Game

Today's PCs are plenty fast, but for the serious gamer, speed is only part of the equation. These seven full-tilt gaming rigs give you what it takes to stay in the game.

NOTICE

We have received numerous letters from our readers complaining of an abrupt halt in service and support from Quantex Microsystems and CyberMax Computer. On August 10, Fountain Technologies, a Somerset, N.J.-based company that supplies components and technical support to both Quantex and CyberMax, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Since then, both vendors have apparently stopped providing service and technical support; phone calls and e-mail messages to both PC makers have gone unanswered, as have calls to Fountain Technologies.

Neither Quantex nor CyberMax is currently advertising in *Computer Shopper*, nor are we currently reviewing their new products.

According to the BBBOnline, the best recourse for those who are not receiving service and support is to contact the Better Business Bureau that serves the city in which the business is located. For information on Quantex and CyberMax, consumers can call the BBB in Trenton, N.J., at 609-588-0808.

According to a BBB spokesperson, any readers who have charged a purchase to their credit card but did not receive the product should immediately contact the credit-card company in writing, explaining that the product was not received and that the consumer will not pay the bill.

Additional tips can be found online at ***www.bbb.org/library/busiclose.asp.***

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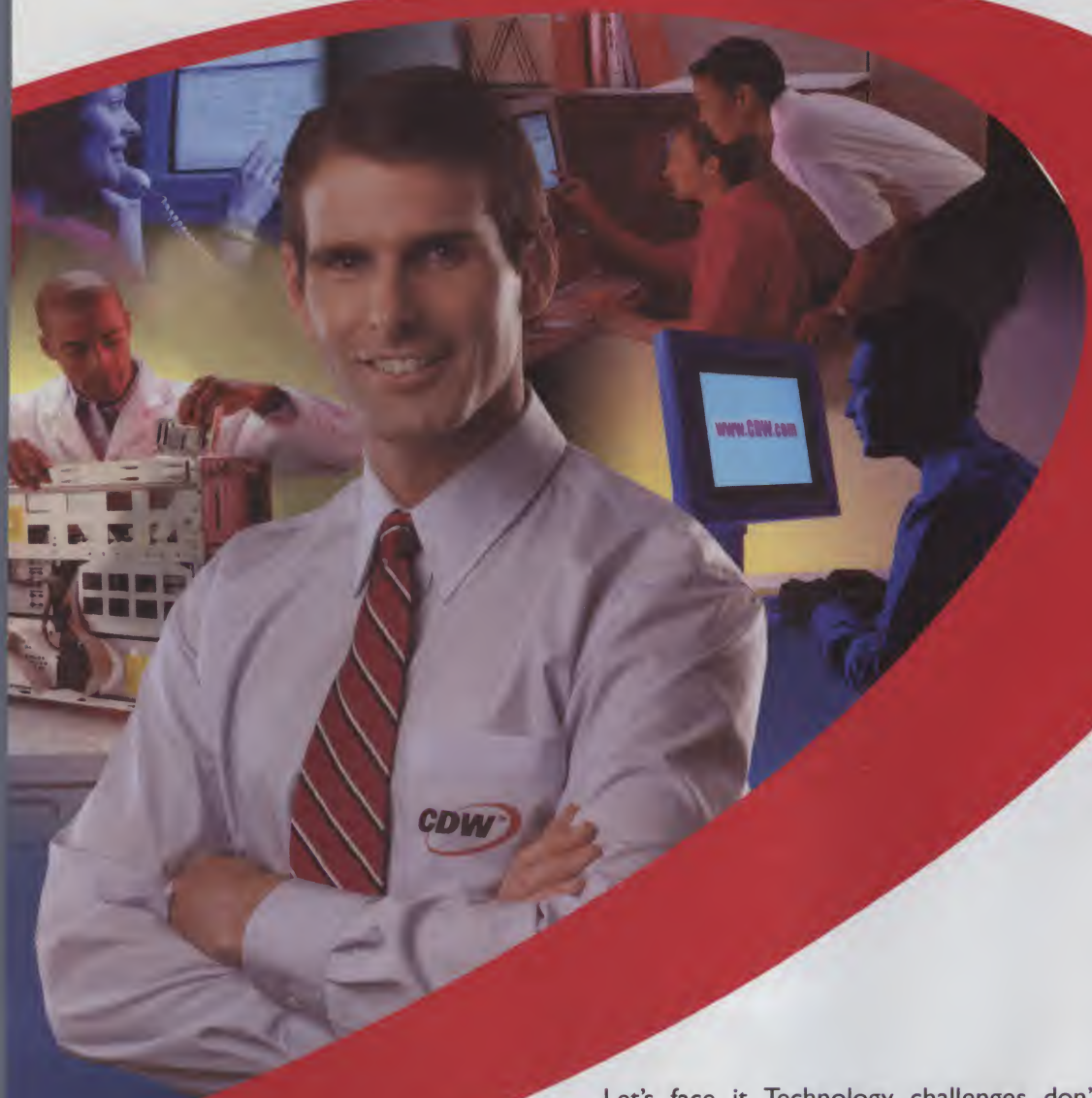

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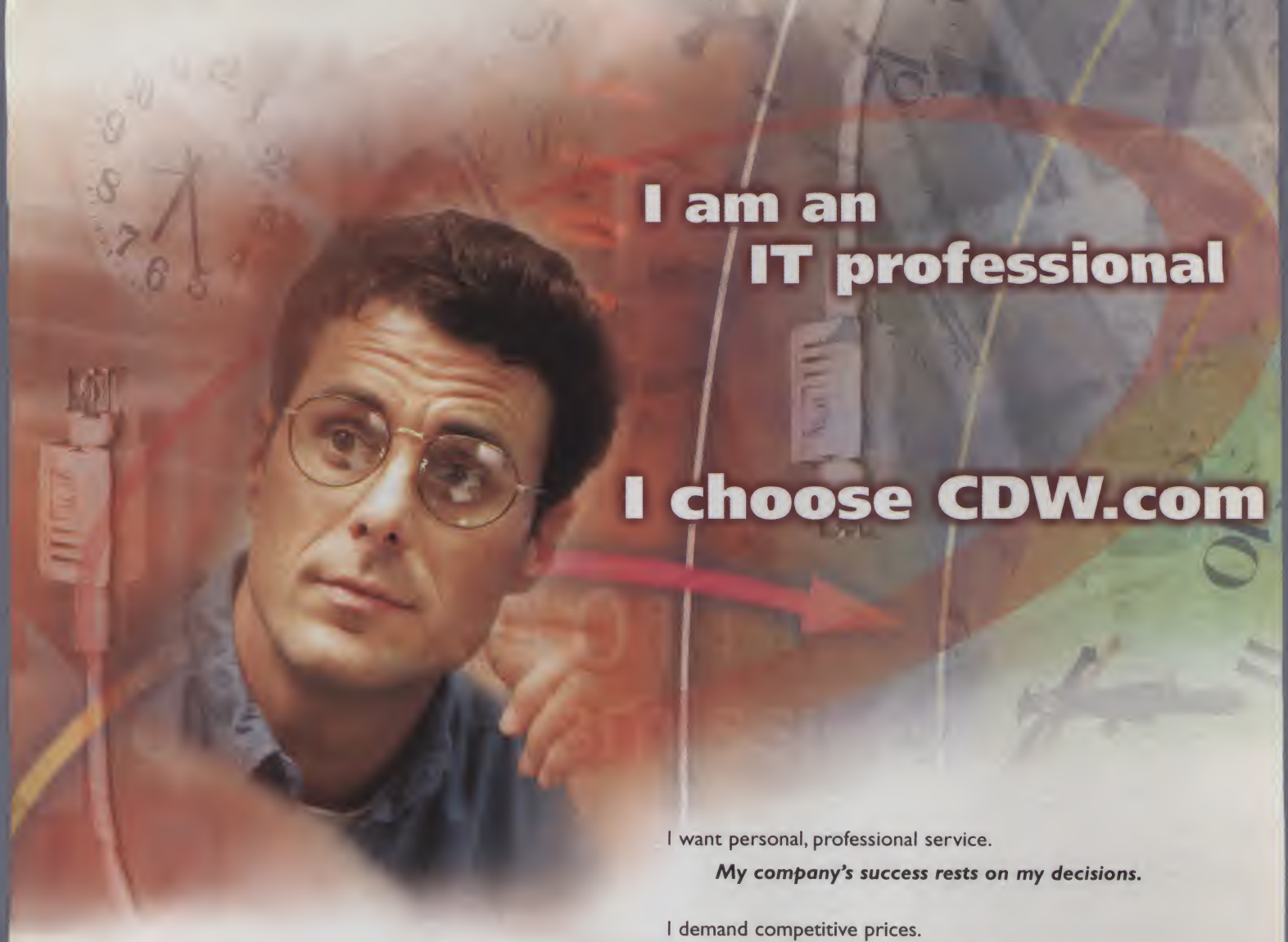

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The New Platform For Election Coverage

They were supposed to be the first Internet conventions. When the Republicans gathered in Philadelphia and the Democrats in Los Angeles last summer to nominate their presidential candidates, the media expected the beginning of a new era, one in which voters would turn to the Web rather than their televisions to follow the machinations of nominating and selling the president.

But it didn't work out that way. "It was the first Internet fizzle," says Dick Meyer, editorial news director of **CBSNews.com.** "You couldn't have picked a worse story. Then they tried to put TV on the computer, and that doesn't work."

There were technological snafus, budget problems, and low Web traffic, even on the best-known sites.

But many of the people involved see those problems as the inevitable kinks encountered in any new endeavor—and a reflection of the fact that both conventions were virtually news-free. Apparently the experience isn't going to stop Web sites from going all out on Election Day, November 7, at least not the sites of the major TV networks. (For a broader view of how television and the Net are converging, see the feature "Media Merger" in this issue.)

At CBSNews.com, "the linchpin of the coverage will be comprehensive results when they come in, at your own speed," says Meyer. Coverage will also include bulletin boards, an Ask the Experts feature, and both streaming and archived video of victory and concession speeches.

ABCNews.com's offerings will include 20 Webcasts of about 15 minutes each, with live interviews featuring the likes of Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts. It will also offer streaming video of all major speeches from candidates in the biggest House and Senate races and the presidential contest, fully transcribed speeches, biographical profiles of candidates, news-survey results, exit interviews, and real-time election data that will be available on wireless devices.

Web visitors can also punch in their ZIP codes to learn how their neighbors voted. Or they can enter their demographic information and learn how people of the same age, income, and educational level voted.

"You can't get *that* on television or in newspapers," says Steve Jones, ABCNews.com's executive producer. "The American public has more information at quicker speed than ever before in this nation's history, a greater opportunity to educate themselves about the issues. But this is an ongoing learning process."

That's one thing everyone involved with Web news coverage can agree on. "It's like 1948 in television time right now, or maybe even earlier," says Steven M. Schneider, editor of **NetElection.org,** a Web watchdog project of the **Annenberg Public Policy Center** at the University of Pennsylvania. "The Internet will be a much bigger player next time around."

That's why both major parties had such elaborate operations during the conventions, as they will for the elections, says Schneider. "They have to, because they know it's the future," he says. "And if they want to operate in the future, well, next time it will be too late to learn."

Meyer of CBSNews.com sees the future of the Internet a lot like the past of old media, though. "Our approach is to try to go to the real basics, old-fashioned political reporting," he says. "With as much analysis in there—and lots of different ways to get their questions answered."

But while the media and the politicians are working this all out, mistakes will happen. As Schneider of NetElection.org points out, the Republicans set up the site **gopconvention.com,** but took it down a week after the convention ended.

"I think that really does a disservice to the citizens," says Schneider. "If I want to see the text of George Bush's speech, I think it ought to be there."

Well, maybe in 2004.

—Anita Gates

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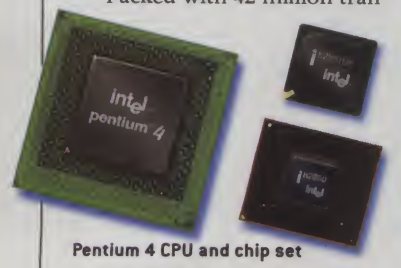
Pentium 4 To Take the Lead at 1.5GHz

Intel Corp. is poised to unleash its Pentium 4 processor, the successor to the Pentium III desktop CPU, at nosebleed speeds of 1.4GHz and 1.5GHz. But Intel says it's the architecture of the CPU, not the faster clock speeds, that will turbocharge performance.

Packed with 42 million transistors, the Pentium 4 represents a complete redesign of the Pentium III's processor core, says Jeff Austin, Intel's marketing manager, desktop products group. "It's the most revolutionary processor since 1995, when we launched the P6 microarchitecture," he says.



Pentium 4 CPU and chip set

The Pentium 4 targets free-spending PC enthusiasts and business power users. One leading PC maker says it will include the new engine in high-end desktops that start at roughly $2,800. For this price, expect a 1.4GHz processor, 128MB of PC800 RDRAM, a 40GB hard drive, a 19-inch monitor, a 32MB GeForce graphics card, and a 12x DVD drive.

Austin says the new IA-32 microarchitecture aims to deliver enhanced performance on processor-choking tasks such as editing digital video and for 3D games and product demos on the Web.

Notable new features include technology that Intel has dubbed NetBurst, which doubles the pipeline depth to 20 stages—twice that of the Pentium III pipeline. The new processor also gains speed from a 400MHz system bus and adds 144 new instructions to the SSE multimedia instructions.

The new 850 chip set that accompanies the CPU supports only RDRAM. Austin admits that this newer type of memory will continue to cost more than SDRAM, but believes it won't deter enthusiasts. Intel will implement an SDRAM solution for mainstream users in the second half of 2001, he says.

The company has not released details on how the Pentium 4 will stack up against the Pentium III. Preliminary independent testing has yielded surprisingly unimpressive performance, largely due to the fact that there are few, if any, applications that take advantage of the processor's architectural advances.

If you're looking for an immediate power jolt from the Pentium 4, it may pay to wait. As one reviewer of an early Pentium 4 says, "Even though the band is playing, it's just not good dance music yet."

—*Rik Fairlie*

Let the Sales Come to You

You buy a sweater for full price, and it's nice—just not full-price nice. It used to be that overpaying and missing sales was as much a part of shopping as a diet-busting trip to the food court. Now two Web sites, **SalesHound.com** and **SalesMountain.com,** help shoppers find deals *before* they pound the pavement for bargains.

SalesHound sniffs out deals by ZIP.

Both sites allow you to create a profile that will identify sales on items that interest you. If you're determined to get a specific brand-name product, you can search for that particular item. But if you're a full-blown shopaholic, each site lists all sales within a 50-mile radius of your ZIP code. In addition, you can register for e-mail alerts that advise you when something you have to have hits the price you're willing to pay.

Although Web sites often offer great prices, SalesHound sniffs out brick-and-mortar stores offering deals that are just as good, says Brian Hand, founder and self-described "top dog." The ability to try on (or out) a higher-value product before laying out big bucks makes many shoppers more at ease, he says.

SalesMountain operates on the slightly different idea that a deal is a deal, no matter where you find it. The site also lists e-store sales, although about 90 percent of its content is related to offline buying, says Charles Hymowitz, co-founder and managing director of marketing and technology.

Whether you know exactly what you want, or just know you want something for a song, both sites are useful if you're itching to spend.

—*Ellen Paradise*

Take Me to Your Advertiser

Open any magazine, and you'll encounter a parade of URLs as you flip through the ad pages. But if you want to hop on the Web and track down a specific product featured in one of those ads, be prepared to slog through numerous pages.

One company hopes to nix the clicks. Software from **Digimarc Corp.** ***(www.digimarc.com)***, working in conjunction with a PC Webcam, will whisk you to product-centric pages—and you won't have to type a single letter.

For instance, hold a **Sears** ad for a drill set a few inches from the camera, and your Web browser instantly jumps to a Web page with a QuickTime demo of the product and the opportunity to purchase. The magic is a hidden watermark in the page that is recognized by Digimarc's MediaBridge software. Magazine readers can recognize encoded ads or articles by a small Digimarc logo, usually placed on the corner of the page.

DIGIMARC

Because virtually any URL can be coded into a print page, advertisers can track which ads bring buyers to their sites, and consumers save time because the Digimarc ad takes them directly to the product they want.

The company says more than 160 magazines are set to add its technology to their pages. But it's not limited to magazines, so you could eventually see Digimarc business cards, postcards, and brochures.

—*Jay Munro*

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NET NOW

TRACING THE FAMILY TREE, DIGITALLY

The Net has made researching your roots dramatically easier and quicker, but despite the multitude of Web sites, chat rooms, and software, there has been a limit to the information you could track down digitally. Serious hunters quickly realize that they will eventually have to turn off the computer and head to a library that houses census records.

Not anymore. Starting in December, the **SierraHome Network,** which publishes the Generations software packages and the Heritage Quest Web site *(www.heritagequest.com)*, will launch the enormous **GenealogyDatabase.com,** a 3.5-terabyte (3.5TB) digital database of census records from 1790 to 1920. (These are the only years available to the public under U.S. law, because the government mandates a 72-year waiting period for public release of census information.)

The company is digitizing and restoring the actual pages from the censuses, making them clearer to read and indexing them for quicker searches, says Kelly Stanmore, public-relations manager for SierraHome. In addition, professional researchers have been annotating pages of particular interest and importance, enabling users to quickly understand an entry's significance. In addition, because learning from other amateur genealogists is an excellent way to hone your hunt, you'll be able to post comments and access chat rooms on the site.

Home users have the opportunity to sign up for the database on a quarterly ($29.95) or yearly ($99.95) basis, says Stanmore. Libraries will also be able to purchase access to the database.

For those who can't wait to get started, CD-ROM versions of all the years are currently available, although only 1790, 1800, and 1870 are indexed. Each disc costs $29.95.

Because of the sheer volume of information available, the database will continue to grow after its launch. And much like humanity itself, GenealogyDatabase.com is a work in progress, one that will eventually grow to a colossal 10TB in size.

—Ellen Paradise

A Net Appliance for Every Need

ViewSonic Corp. *(www.viewsonic.com)* is betting that the world is really ready to enter the age of the Internet appliance. The company, best known for its monitors and flat-panel displays, has announced not one, not two, but more than 10 types of Internet appliances that will ship by the end of the year.

ViewPad prototype

The devices, which will arrive bundled with AT&T WorldNet Service, will start at $500. They will run on a variety of operating systems, including Windows CE, Linux, QNX, Be, and VxWorks.

But don't expect to buy an Internet appliance direct from ViewSonic. Rather than marketing directly to consumers, the company aims to partner with companies such as brokerage firms, which will offer them to their customers as part of an overall service package. "These are windows into their businesses on a 24/7 basis," says Peter C. Weedfald, ViewSonic executive vice president of emerging businesses.

Prototypes, most of which leave plenty of room for design tweaks and customization, include a Web phone that combines a telephone with a color 7.8-inch flat-panel display and separate keyboard, a set-top box with a DVD drive, a kiosk-style one-piece touch screen featuring a 10.4-inch flat-panel display, and a 15-inch flat-panel display with the Internet-appliance smarts integrated into its base.

Set-top model

The display is always the most expensive component of an Internet appliance, and ViewSonic is clearly hoping that its expertise in manufacturing displays will enable it to build the devices at very competitive prices.

But do sales forecasts back up ViewSonic's optimism? Apparently so. Market research firm **International Data Corp.** says that by 2002, Internet-appliance shipments will hit 42 million units, and that Internet-appliance sales will surpass PC sales by 2004. Meanwhile, **Dataquest** rather optimistically projects sales of 20 million units this year alone.

—Don Willmott

A LITTLE LINUX

If you're not crazy about the Palm and you're not convinced that Windows will scale to fit your pocket, you've got a new choice in handhelds. **Agenda Computing** ***(www.agendacomputing.com)*** is set to release the VR3, an inexpensive PDA running the well-regarded combination of the Linux operating system and the X Window GUI environment.

Three versions of the 4-ounce VR3 should be available this month. The standard $149 unit ships with 8MB of RAM and 2MB of flash storage. The $199 VR3+ increases the flash storage to 4MB, and the $249 VR3s bumps the flash to 8MB. All three run on two AAA batteries.

A second product line, the VR5, will offer advanced features such as a rechargeable lithium-ion battery and will start at $299. It should be available in late November or early December.

Agenda VR3

Agenda has been overwhelmed by developers eager to create a wide range of apps and utilities for the open-OS devices, says Jack Brantley, the company's vice president of marketing.

Does that mean Linux-based devices are the next big thing in small computing? Brantley answers with a mighty metaphor: "This will be like the Mississippi, starting with a small trickle and growing into something huge and powerful." He also predicts that larger computer companies will develop similar units soon, but that their models will be considerably more expensive.

—Neil Randall

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

NET NOW

Data in the Dashboard

Does the Internet drive you to distraction? Soon it may be distracting you while you drive: All three major U.S. automakers are incorporating computing and wireless communications devices into new models over the next few years.

By late 2001, the **Ford Motor Co.** will add telematics—wireless Web access and cellular navigation services—to its cars and trucks. More than a *million* Ford cars are slated to be equipped with telematics by

wingcast

the end of 2002, 3 million by 2003, and virtually every car Ford sells by the end of 2004.

Ford's telematics service, known as Wingcast, will be based on **Qualcomm's** CDMA wireless technology, and access is expected to cost between $10 and $30 per month. According to Ford, you can expect communications, information, navigation, entertainment, and safety and security features,

Ford finds the Net.

although the company has yet to be much more specific about the capabilities.

Beyond simple Web access, it's easy to imagine features such as GPS navigation with live mapping (something currently achieved with stacks of CDs spinning in a jukebox in the trunk), accident notification, real-time traffic updates, and the like. **Nissan** is also planning to offer Wingcast services in its luxury and Infiniti models.

Meanwhile, **General Motors** currently has close to 300,000 subscribers to its $40-per-month OnStar service. More than half of its 2001 models will offer some form of OnStar, either as standard equipment or as an option. An improved version, called OnStar Virtual Advisor, due next year, will have e-mail, news, and stock-quote features, plus a text-to-speech engine that will let you listen to e-mail messages that have been forwarded to your car.

DaimlerChrysler is the laggard of the big three U.S. automakers, not promising Internet access or wireless services until 2002 or 2003. That delay will give it time to see how the market for wireless Web devices and Web-equipped cell phones evolves.

It could turn out that drivers are satisfied with the capabilities of their handheld gadgets and don't see a need to turn their cars into Internet-access devices at all. Nevertheless, **International Data Corp.** forecasts that the telematics market will grow from $1 billion in 1998 to $42 billion in 2010.

—Don Willmott

SOUNDS LIKE SAFE SURFING

Banks, credit-card companies, and e-commerce Web sites try all sorts of approaches to minimize online fraud. The latest idea: sound waves.

Israel-based **ComSense** *(www.com-sense.com)* has been demonstrating a new kind of smart card that employs an embedded transmitter to send an ultrasonic signal to any microphone-equipped PC. The signal authenticates the user's identity and then launches online activities. ComSense calls the technology Comdot and is pitching it to credit-card companies such as **Visa International,** which has already shown interest.

No card reader is required. Squeezing a spot on the card sends a signal to the PC, where the signal is read by a 30K application that can be either resident on the PC or embedded in a Web site. Once the signal identifies your card, you can begin one-click shopping, open a password-protected personal page, or do anything else you've instructed the site to allow. The card doesn't send passwords or credit-card numbers; it merely identifies you to the Web site, where all your personal information is stored.

The attraction of the technology? Time savings and convenience. A single squeeze of the card could replace opening your browser and entering a URL, username, and password. Online brokerages could issue cards to their customers for added security, and ISPs might want to distribute them as an easier way to log on. Used with an online wallet, the card could help you automatically fill in order forms.

ComSense, which hopes to have Comdot in the hands of the general public by the end of the year, says that the signal also can pass through cellular connections, making it usable for wireless Web applications as well.

—D.W.

VALUE LINE MP3 PLAYERS

A sampling of portable MP3 players found on **computershopper.com**

I-Jam MP3 Player USB $124
32MB CompactFlash card, two AAA batteries, USB cable, FM tuner

Samsung Yepp YP-E64 $189
64MB onboard, SmartMedia slot, two AAA batteries, parallel cable, voice recorder

Sensory Science rave:mp 2300 $279
Two 40MB Clik disks, rechargeable lithium-ion battery, USB, voice recorder

Sony NW-MS7 Memory Stick Walkman $331
64MB Memory Stick removable memory, lithium-ion battery, USB

$100 $150 $200 $250 $300 $350 $400

S3 Rio 600 $162
32MB memory, SmartMedia slot, one AA battery, USB cable

Best Data Cabo MP3 Player $224
64MB memory, SmartMedia slot, two AAA batteries, parallel cable, voice recorder

Samsung Yepp

Creative Nomad II MG $361
64MB onboard, SmartMedia slot, FM tuner, two AAA alkaline/NiMH batteries, USB, voice recorder

Source: computershopper.com, September 6

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

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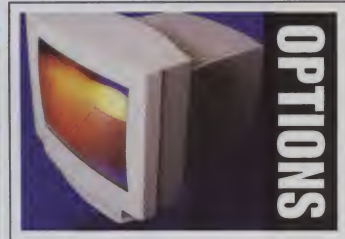

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- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value 3D Wavetable Sound Card
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- 200MHz Front Side Bus, 256K Performance Enhancing L2 Cache
- 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive
- Nvidia GeForce2 GTS 64MB DDR AGP 3D Graphics Accelerator
- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value 3D Wavetable Sound Card
- Creative Labs CambridgeSoundWorks FPS1000 4-Piece Speakers w/Subwoofer
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- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value 3D Wavetable Sound Card
- Creative Labs CambridgeSoundWorks FPS1000 4-Piece Speakers w/Subwoofer
- 56K V.90 PCI Voice/Fax/Data Modem
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B2B BUZZ

Auto-Callback Technology Verifies Customers' Identities

Accepting credit-card numbers online can be risky business. How do you know the individual at the keyboard is the one whose name appears on the credit card? And you can request a phone number, but you still have no way of knowing if it's correct. Indeed, the **FBI** reported that identity fraud and financial fraud on the Internet totaled more than $120 million last year, up 50 percent over 1997.

A new service from **iVerify.com** integrates the Internet and telephony to help e-commerce sites confirm a customer's identity. IV-Caller inserts an extra step before credit-card approval. When customers enter credit-card information into a form, they're asked to enter a six- to 10-digit password. IVerify then electronically generates a phone call to the number provided and asks them to enter the code on the telephone's keypad. The code is verified, and the customer is added to the database. Customers with only one phone line can press a button to delay the call until they're offline. They can also press a key to receive no more calls thereafter, just in case someone maliciously enters a phone number multiple times.

"It's easier to steal data over the Internet than it is to break into someone's home and pick up the phone in time to answer the verification call," says Aron Leifer, iVerify's president and CEO.

Vendors aren't the only ones wary of online credit-card transactions. Studies show 80 percent of Internet shoppers are concerned about online credit-card security. Another iVerify product, iV-SafeCharge, is geared toward customers leery of providing credit-card information at a Web site. After a customer finishes shopping, iV-SafeCharge provides a toll-free number and order identification to complete the transaction over the phone.

The company is currently in talks with e-commerce heavyweights **eBay** and **Barnes & Noble,** and will be targeting the product to chat rooms as well. The service costs $30 per month and 9 cents per verification. At press time, the company was offering a three-month trial. No additional hardware is required to incorporate the solution into a site.

—Nancy A. Lang

E-Business Tutor Goes Online

Looking for a place to go for help and advice on e-business? Check out **BizBlast.com's** E-Business Training Center for articles, how-tos, and tutorials on developing, designing, and marketing online stores.

"Small-business owners aren't specialists in technology and the Internet," says Jeff Lamb, president and CEO. "They're busy, and need to focus on being the best printer, making the best widget, or hiring people who aren't going to steal from them."

Turn to BizBlast.com for e-business tutorials.

Articles cover a breadth of e-commerce basics, including Web-site design, affiliate and banner programs, opt-in e-mail newsletters, and hit analyses. Many are excerpted from the 30 books written by BizBlast founder Peter Kent. The free site is initially offering mainly text-based articles, but plans are in place for streaming video, online tutorials, and live chats.

—Hailey Lynne McKeefry

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

What's kept so many consumers and businesses from buying online is not just fear of entering credit-card numbers, but also an aversion to returns.

That's the impetus behind **e-RMA** ***(www.e-rma.com)***. The company's Web-based return-management solutions are designed to make the return process easier for the buyer and less costly for the seller in both the B2B and B2C marketplaces.

E-RMA takes the hassle out of the return process.

E-RMA's fees work out to less than $5 per incident, compared with the $45 to $135 typically spent on a return, according to Raj Rajagopal, president and CEO. This represents a substantial savings, considering returns average 4 percent to 8 percent in the B2B space and 15 percent to 20 percent in the B2C space.

The company's prices are based on a sliding scale that varies with the number of returns. Because e-RMA is an ASP solution, there's no hardware or software to install. And it interfaces with any enterprise resource planning (ERP) system.

Customers can submit return requests over the Internet by filling out customizable forms. When they state a reason for a return, the solution can automatically suggest an alternate product. It also automatically generates e-mails advising customers of the status of their requests.

Merchants can view real-time reports on the products returned, and the reasons for and sources of the returns, from a private area on e-RMA's site. They can then issue return-authorization numbers, reject requests, or request additional information.

"On the Web, customers are just a click away from another store," notes Rajagopal. Making their experience as hassle-free as possible is one way to get them to stay put.

—N.A.L.

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- > Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120, Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
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- > 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
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- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
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- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
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- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
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- > Deluxe Carrying Case
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- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
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NP2850c

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- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
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- Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
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- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.58"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP3350e

- **14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology**
- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
- **10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive**
- **8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†**
- **Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD**
- **IEEE-1394 Port**
- 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.58"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP3350c

- **14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display**
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- **64MB 100MHz SDRAM**
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- **24X Max. CD-ROM Drive***
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- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
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- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- 12.05"w x 9.13"d x 1.26"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1945

NP3220i

- **12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display**
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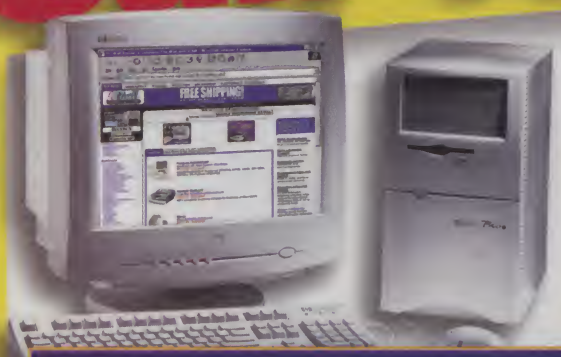

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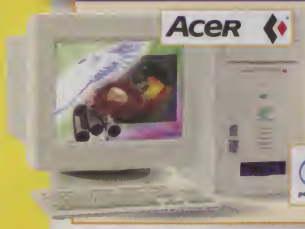

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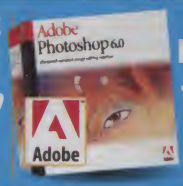

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COMPAQ
733MHz
Intel® Pentium® III processor, 128MB RAM, NIC
$2,299
Proliant ML350 #58230

hp invent
550MHz
Intel® Pentium® III processor, 64MB RAM, 9.1GB, 32X CD-ROM, T20Xi Tape Backup
$1,989
NetServer LPR #842233

600MHz
Intel® Pentium® III processor, 64MB RAM, 10.1GB, 40X CD-ROM, NIC, No OS
IBM
$1,339
Netfinity 1000 #82993

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ThinkPad 1210 #950143

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64MB RAM, 6GB Hard Drive
DVD, 56K modem, 13" TFT
$1,749
Satellite 4320DVD #842664
TOSHIBA

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Intel® Pentium® III processor
128MB RAM, 12GB HD, DVD
V.90 modem, 14.1" TFT
Includes DVD!
$3,547
ThinkPad T20 #[illegible]

700MHz
Intel® Pentium® III processor
128MB RAM, 12GB HD, DVD,
14.1" TFT, Win NT/2000
$3,199
Tecra 8100 (16CF7) #842653
TOSHIBA

FUJITSU
500MHz
Intel® Celeron™ processor
64MB RAM, 6GB Hard Drive
14.1" Active Matrix display
$1,399
C-6177 #[illegible]

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HOT GEAR

the Stuff you want

net tune(r)

If you're tired of the endless loop of top-10 tunes your local radio stations spit out and want to hear something more cutting-edge—or at least tailored to your tastes—Internet radio is the way to go. With the $99.95 **Sonicbox iM Remote Tuner,** you can listen to Net radio stations from nearly anywhere in your house. The Sonicbox system comes complete with a base unit that connects to your PC and allows you to dial up your favorite radio stations, and a receiver that connects to any home stereo. Using 900MHz wireless frequencies much like a cordless phone, the base unit transmits radio sound to any stereo in the home connected to a Sonicbox receiver.

Sonicbox iM Remote Tuner
Sonicbox
Mountain View, CA; 650-967-4842
www.sonicbox.com

gonzo gaming

Forget visions of sugar plums. This season the $299 **Sony PlayStation2** (PS2) gaming console will be dancing through most kids' heads. Not only will the hotly anticipated device play the currently available library of more than 800 original PlayStation titles, but it will be compatible with 270 fresh titles now in development. The PS2 will include a DVD-ROM drive, plus USB and FireWire ports. Sony also includes a networking interface to accommodate future functionality and upgrades.

Sony PlayStation2
Sony Computer Entertainment America
Foster City, CA; 800-345-7669
www.playstation.com

free the webcams!

No longer must your Webcam remain chained to your desktop system, thanks to the $149 **Intel Pocket PC Camera,** which operates both as a stationary Webcam and as a tiny detachable point-and-shooter for quick low-res digital snapshots. This convenient device has 8MB of internal memory, capable of holding up to 128 VGA stills or 2 minutes of full-motion video. You can quickly upload your images to the PC over a USB connection, then have a blast with the tons of fun photo-manipulation and -management software provided.

Intel Pocket PC Camera
Intel Corp
Hillsboro, OR; 800-538-3373
www.intel.com/pccamera

four-in-one phone

Stay in touch with everyone you know, regardless of location or wireless medium, with the affordably priced **Motorola i550plus.** This handset, selling for $99 or less, functions as a digital cell phone, text pager, wireless Internet terminal, and two-way radio. The sleek, compact device features an extended battery, keypad lockout, a backlight timer, and speakerphone. Expect to find the i550plus sold through independent wireless service providers, such as Nextel and Southern LINC.

Motorola i550plus
Motorola
Schaumburg, IL; 800-639-6111
www.motorola.com/iden

light bright

Weighing just 5.2 pounds, pumping out 800 ANSI lumens of brightness, and projecting a sharp native SVGA resolution, the $2,999 **UltraLight DS2** from Proxima Corp. promises to be a compelling ultraportable projector for PowerPoint jockeys on the go. Based on Texas Instruments' Digital Light Processing (DLP) technology, which enables smaller, brighter, and less expensive projectors, the DS2 can also handle XGA output via compression. Included standard with the projector are a full-function remote with cursor control and a laser pointer.

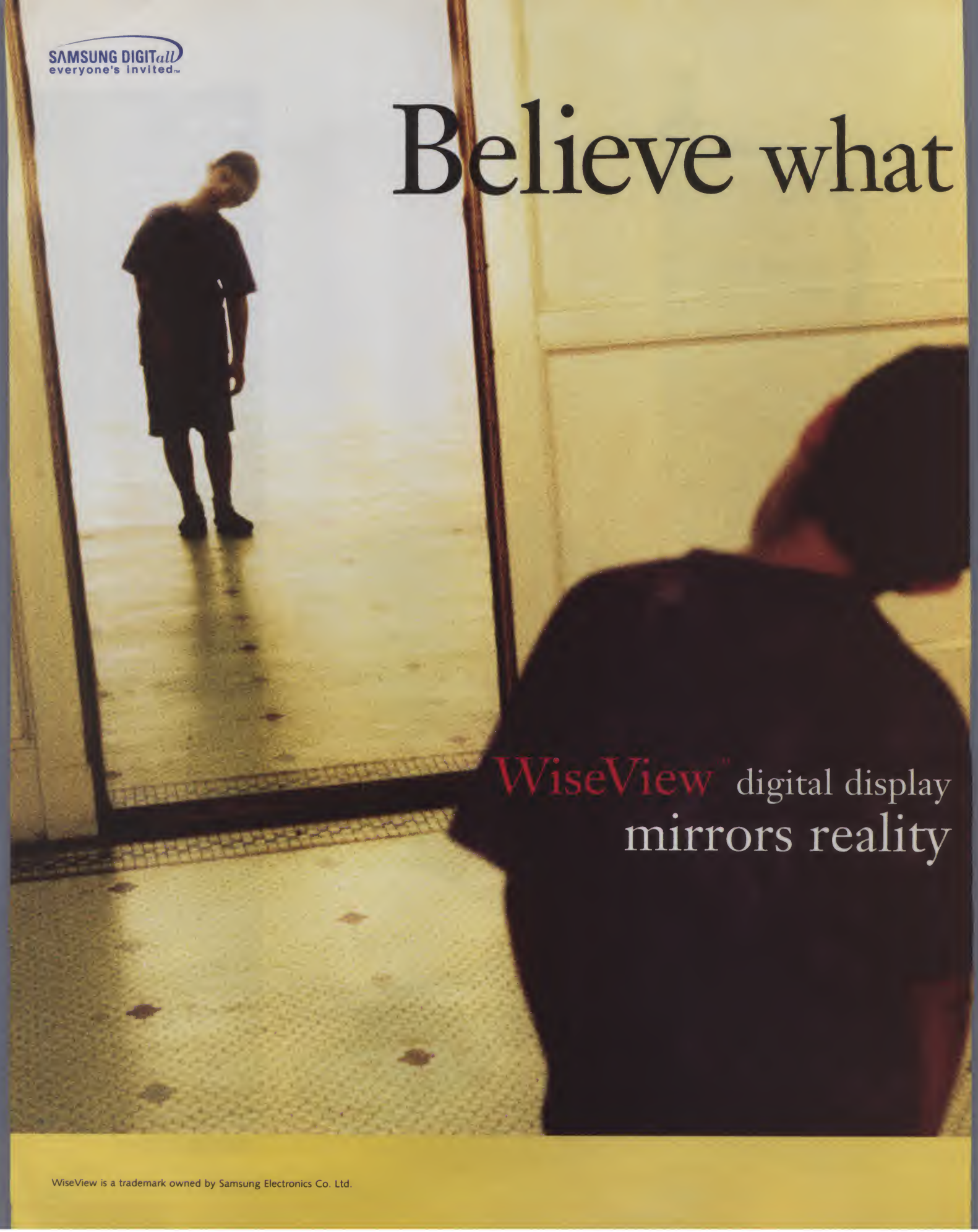
Proxima UltraLight DS2
Proxima Corp.
San Diego, CA, 888-776-9462
www.proxima.com

PS2 clicker

One of the niftiest features of Sony's long-awaited PlayStation2 (PS2) home gaming system is its built-in DVD player, which enables you to kick back with a movie when your wrist starts to ache. However, you'll have to stay within cord reach while playing and controlling movies if you stick with the PS2's standard gamepads. For a more versatile movie-watching experience, Saitek Industries has introduced the $19.95 **InfraRed DVD Remote for PlayStation2.** Saitek claims its unit will be the only one to feature an IR receiver with a pass-through connection, allowing users to keep gamepads and the remote plugged in simultaneously.

Saitek InfraRed DVD Remote for PlayStation2
Saitek Industries
Torrance, CA; 310-212-5412
www.saitekusa.com

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 59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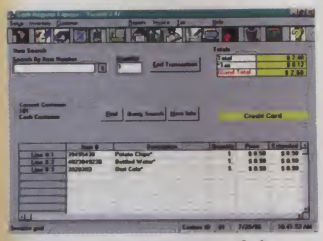

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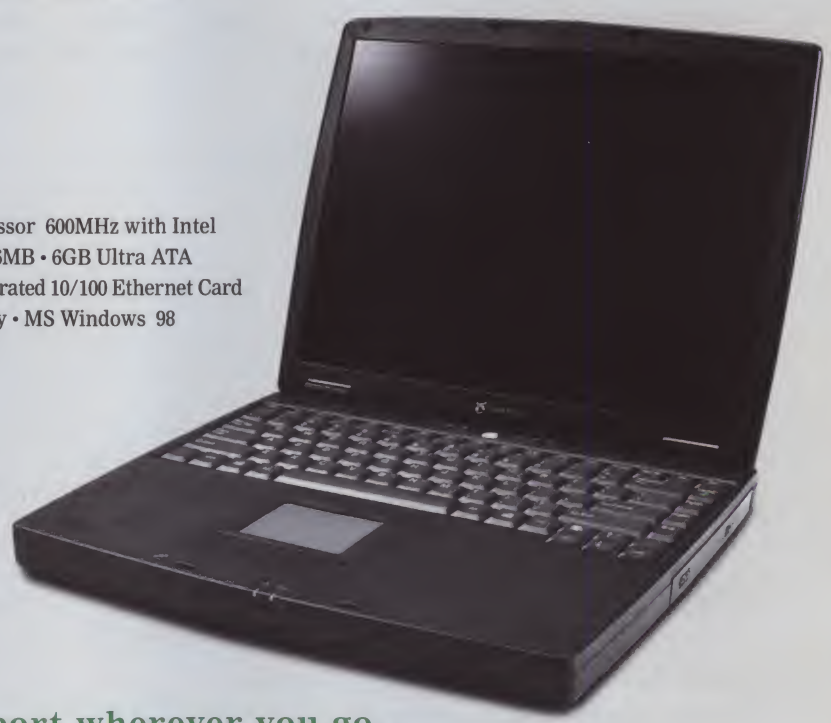
$1799 or $61/mo., 36 mos. business lease[2]

Gateway Solo 3350 Portable

Ultra-portability without compromise

• 12.1" XGA TFT Color Display • Intel Pentium III Processor 600MHz with Intel SpeedStep Technology • 64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB • 6GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • External Floppy Diskette Media Bay • Integrated 10/100 Ethernet Card • Integrated V.90 56K Modem[4] • 6-Cell Lithium Ion Battery • MS Windows 98 • 1-Year Limited Warranty[1] • 1" thick, approx. 3.65 lbs.

$2199 or $73/mo., 36 mos. business lease[2]



Gateway™ Solo® 5300 Portable features Intel® Pentium® III processors

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You count on your portable to work when you're on the go. That's why Gateway offers a comprehensive package of tools and services to keep you up and running.

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- Critical loaner option

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3. Gateway is pleased to provide its customers with domain name registration services, but can't guarantee the availability of a particular domain name. You should also be aware that successful domain name registration doesn't guarantee that your chosen name will not conflict with someone else's trademark, service mark or other type of intellectual property. To avoid any such potential problems, if you have any questions or concerns about these issues, we encourage you to consult with legal counsel about your domain name choice and its implications.
4. Maximum data transfer rate dependant upon variables including particular modems with which you are communicating, telephone lines, communications software and communications protocols.
* Weight includes battery and WeightSave module, weight will vary due to vendor components, manufacturing process and options.

Powerful servers that help grow your business.

Gateway™ 6400 Server

Entry-level server with value technology and ease of use.

• Intel® Pentium® III Processor 733MHz with 256K L2 Cache • Supports up to two Intel Pentium III Processors • 64MB of PC133 ECC SDRAM • 9GB Ultra160 SCSI (7200RPM) Hard Drive • Integrated Intel® 10/100 Ethernet • Integrated PCI Graphics with 4MB Memory • New 9-Bay Highly Serviceable Mini-Tower Chassis • HP® OpenView™ ManageX Event Manager • 3-Year Limited Warranty[1] • 3-Year On-Site Service[1] • FCC Class A Emission Standard[5]

$1599 or $54/mo., 36 mos. business lease[2]

Gateway 7400 Server

Performance workgroup server with enhanced storage and serviceabilty.

• Intel Pentium III Processor 733MHz with 256K L2 Cache • Supports up to two Pentium III Processors • 128MB of PC133 ECC SDRAM • 9GB Ultra160 SCSI (10K RPM) Hard Drive • Integrated Intel 10/100 Ethernet • Integrated PCI Graphics with 4MB Memory • 12-Bay Server Tower or 5U Rack Case (includes 6 Hot Plug-ready Drive Bays) • HP OpenView ManageX Event Manager • 3-Year Limited Warranty[1] • 3-Year On-Site Service[1] • FCC Class A Emission Standard[5]

$2199 or $73/mo., 36 mos. business lease[2]

Gateway™ servers feature Intel® Pentium® III processors

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Gateway recommends Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional for business.

5. FCC Class A products may not be sold for home use.

HOT GEAR

slim scan

Want spectacular scans from a scanner that's impressively priced? Check out Canon Computer Systems' $199 CanoScan N1220U flatbed scanner, which delivers a pleasing eyeful at 1,200x2,400-dpi resolution, connects to any Mac or PC through a USB port, and features Canon's cool Z-Lid Expansion Top, a special hinge that accommodates bulky items up to an inch thick. The scanner itself measures a slim inch from top to bottom and weighs a slight 3.3 pounds, but it ships with a hefty bundle of software, including ArcSoft PhotoStudio 2000 and PhotoBase, Adobe Photoshop 5.0 LE, and ScanSoft OmniPage.

Canon CanoScan N1220U
Canon Computer Systems
Costa Mesa, CA; 800-652-2666
www.ccsi.canon.com/scanners

a sensational mouse

The days of the lowly standard computer mouse may be numbered. Logitech's $59.95 iFeel MouseMan aims to drive dumb mice into extinction with its integrated TouchSense technology, delivering actual tactile sensations for "events" within Windows apps. As the cursor travels over icons and menus, command bars and toolbars, the iFeel MouseMan creates tactile responses to each. In addition, MouseMan is easy on the eyes with its softly contoured shape and metallic-blue finish.

Logitech iFeel MouseMan
Logitech
Fremont, CA; 800-231-7717
www.logitech.com

sweatin' to the PDAs

Handheld organizers aren't just for sorting out your business life anymore. The $229 Vivonic Fitness Planner's sole purpose is to pump you up. This 2.2-ounce stand-alone palm-size device helps you create and track a customized fitness agenda. After developing an exercise routine and diet plan with the Vivonic software on your PC, you download this information to the device over a serial cable. You can then check off exercises and input nutritional intake using its touch screen. The Planner also features a built-in pedometer to track miles walked or run.

Vivonic Fitness Planner
Vivonic
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www.vivonic.com

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 64

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15" Color Monitor (13.8" Display)	15" Color Monitor (13.8" Display)
AGP 64 Graphics	AGP 64 Graphics
CD Rewriteable/Recordable Drive with CD Writer software and FREE blank CDRW disk	CD Rewriteable/Recordable Drive with CD Writer software and FREE blank CDRW disk
Onboard Wavetable 32 Sound plus Tiny CPR50 Stereo Speakers	Onboard Wavetable 32 Sound plus Tiny CPR50 Stereo Speakers
56K Modem with V.90 Standard Compatibility	56K Modem with V.90 Standard Compatibility
Includes Microsoft® Windows® Millennium – the home version of the world's favorite software	Includes Microsoft® Windows® Millennium – the home version of the world's favorite software
Instant Access Keyboard	Instant Access Keyboard
Microsoft® Intellimouse™	Microsoft® Intellimouse™
3 Months FREE Internet Access with Tiny Online	3 Months FREE Internet Access with Tiny Online
Lexmark Z12 Color Jetprinter	Lexmark Z12 Color Jetprinter
Microsoft® Works	Microsoft® Works Suite 2000
	Microsoft® Flight Simulator 2000
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Home Perfomance Writer 800 illustrated

Home Performance Writer 800

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
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- 17" Color Monitor (15.8" Display)
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- CD Rewriteable/Recordable Drive with CD Writer software and FREE blank CDRW disk
- Creative Labs Soundblaster 128 Wavetable Sound plus Tiny CPR50 Stereo Speakers
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- Microsoft® Intellimouse™
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- Instant Access Keyboard
- Microsoft® Intellimouse™
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- Microsoft® Works Suite 2000
- Microsoft® Flight Simulator 2000
- Plus your choice of FREE software worth up to $460

$1899

Performance Notebook 800

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- Internal 56K Modem
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- Includes Microsoft® Windows® Millennium – the home version of the world's favorite software
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- Microsoft® Works Suite 2000
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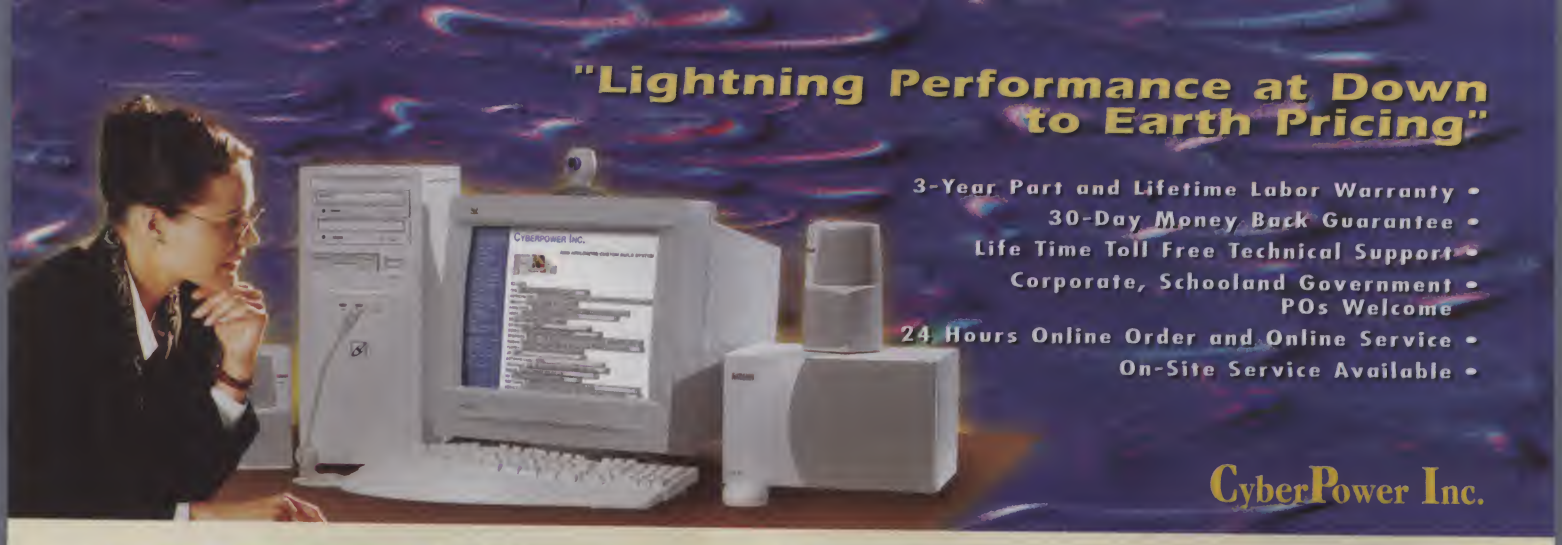

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- 16X DVD-ROM
- 32XBX4 CD-RW DRIVE
- Creative Lab Sound Blaster Live Value
- Altec Lansing ACS-54 4-Satellite Subwoofer System
- 19" VIEWSONIC E790 .22MM 1800 x 1500 SVGA
- 3COM US-Robotic 56K V.90 Fax Modem w/ Voice
- Mitsumi 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- PS2 WIN98 Keyboard & Internet Mouse
- ATX Medium Tower Case w/ 250 Watt UL
- Microsoft Windows Millennium or 98 2nd Edition
- COREL WORDPERFECT OFFICE 2000
- Norton Anti Virus w/ Ver 5.0 Engine
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Intel Pentium III 1300	$ 2369	C1111
Intel Pentium III 1000	$ 2195	C1112
Intel Pentium III 933	**$ 2079**	C1113
Intel Pentium III 866	$ 1965	C1114
Intel Pentium III 800	$ 1919	C1115
Intel Pentium III 750	$ 1909	C1116
Intel Pentium III 667	$ 1889	C1117

DVD DREAM

(www.cyberpowerpc.com/cyberpower/dvddreom.html)

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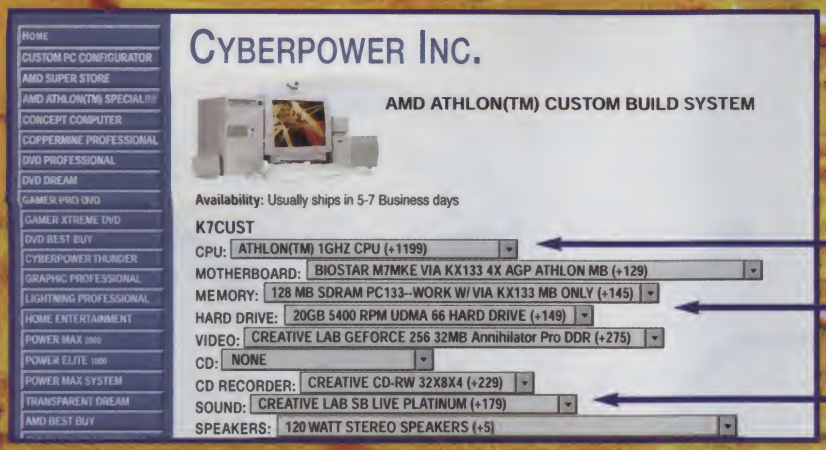

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BUSINESS LEASE: $61/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Red Hat® Linux™ 6.2, add ~~$149~~ NOW $0

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Ultra-Slim (2U) Rack-Optimized Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 733MHz (up to 1GHz)
- Dual Processor Capable
- 128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 9GB[5] 10K RPM Ultra3 SCSI HD (up to 36GB[5])
- Up to 180GB Hot-swappable Internal Storage Capacity
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- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]; 7x24 Phone Support

$2939 E•VALUE CODE 05895-291029

BUSINESS LEASE: $81/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 2nd 9GB[5] 10K RPM Ultra3 SCSI HD, add $349
- MS® Windows® 2000 Server, add $799

intel inside pentium®III

Dell recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business.

Phone Hours: M-F 7a-9p • Sat 10a-6p • Sun 12p-5p CT • In Canada, call 800-232-6306 In Mexico, call 001-877-269-3379 • GSA Contract #GS-35F-4076D

Prices, specifications, and availability may change without notice. Taxes and shipping charges extra, and vary. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. U.S. only. [2]For a copy of our Guarantees or Limited Warranties, write Dell USA L.P., Attn: Warranties, One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682. [3]Service may be provided by third party. Technician will be dispatched, if necessary, following phone-based troubleshooting. Availability varies. [5]For hard drives, GB means 1 billion bytes; accessible capacity varies with operating environment. [6]Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less (about 30Kbps) and vary by modem manufacturer and online conditions. Analog phone line and compatible server required. [11]Business leasing arranged by Dell Financial Services L.P., an independent entity, to qualified customers. Lease payments based on a 48-month FMV purchase option lease and do not include taxes, fees and shipping charges. Subject to credit approval and availability. Lease terms and pricing subject to change without notice. [20]CompleteCare service excludes theft, loss, and damage due to fire or intentional damage. CompleteCare is currently not available in all states. For complete details, visit www.dell.com/us/en/bsd/services/service_complete-care_svc.htm [33]Local and long distance access charges may apply. #800/888/877 access charge $6.00/hr. plus global roaming charge $9.00/hr. extra. [36]Minimum $100 purchase, maximum $1000 discount. Limit one discount per customer. [37]See terms and conditions in the Website Hosting Agreement at http://dellhost.com/legal_hostagree.html [41]Minimum purchase of 2000 names. Intel, the Intel Inside logo, and Pentium are registered trademarks and Intel SpeedStep, Pentium III Xeon, and Celeron are trademarks of Intel Corporation. MS, Microsoft, BackOffice, Windows NT, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. 3Com is a registered trademark and Fast EtherLink is a trademark of 3Com Corporation. Trinitron is a registered trademark of Sony Corporation. ©2000 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

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EXPLODE.

[LET US HELP YOUR BUSINESS CATCH FIRE ON THE WEB.]

Population of your town: 534,000. Population of World Wide Web: estimated at 300,000,000 (and counting). Maybe you should move your business online. Our hosting packages are not only an incredible deal, they're supported by Dell™ PowerEdge™ servers and PowerApp™ server appliances featuring Intel® Pentium® III processors. (And we know about the importance of network uptime.) Dell Internet Services offers everything from basic hosting to full-blown E-Commerce solutions on dedicated servers. Plus, we have a whole slew of tools to help you build, maintain, and promote your site. With Dell Internet Services, you'll get your business burning on the Web in no time. (Is it hot in here?)

1. GET STARTED

- Internet access for only $19.95/month[33] (telephone charges may apply – contact your local telephone company for details)
- Domain name registration for $25/year
- Build your site with TrellixWeb™ Dell™ Edition Software – no HTML experience necessary – no additional charge
- Or hire Dell™ Web Design Services to custom-design your Website, starting at $99

2. HOST YOUR SITE WITH AN E-COMMERCE LEADER

- Get your Website on the Internet for as little as $14.95 a month, plus setup fees
- Choose from shared and dedicated hosting packages

WEBSITE STARTER KIT

Your Business Address on the Web:
- Register Your Business Domain Name

Your Business Website Professionally Designed:
- 3 Page Web Design Service (W-3900)

Your Website Placed (Hosted) on the Web:
- 1 Year of Hosting (S-1100)

$399 for kit
PLUS $20 ONE-TIME SETUP FEE

SHARED WEBHOSTING SOLUTION

DellHost™ S-1000
- 50MB Storage Capacity
- 3GB Monthly Data Transfer
- 5 POP3 E-Mail Accounts
- TrellixWeb™ Dell™ Edition – Website Design Tool
- Support for MS® FrontPage® 2000 Extensions
- 99.9% Uptime Guarantee[37]
- E-Mail and Website Technical Support
- 30-day Money-back Guarantee[37]
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- Buy Annual and Save 10% Off the Price

$14.95/mo.
PLUS $20 ONE-TIME SETUP FEE

DEDICATED WEBHOSTING SOLUTION

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- Dell™ PowerApp.web™ 100 Server Appliance
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz
- 64MB RAM
- 1x9GB[5], 7.2K SCSI Hard Drive
- 2X 10/100 Embedded NICs
- Red Hat® Linux™ 6.2 OS
- Dedicated 21GB Monthly Transfer (Metered)
- TrellixWeb™ Dell™ Edition – Website Design Tool
- 99.9% Uptime Guarantee[37]; 7x24 Tech Support
- Optional Weekly Back-up Services $75/month, plus $150 One-time Setup Fee

$199/mo.
PLUS $299 ONE-TIME SETUP FEE

3. PROMOTE YOUR SITE

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GSA Contract #GS-35F-4076D

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DESKTOPS

Systemax PJM-T733 Excite PC

A powerful budget desktop without compromise

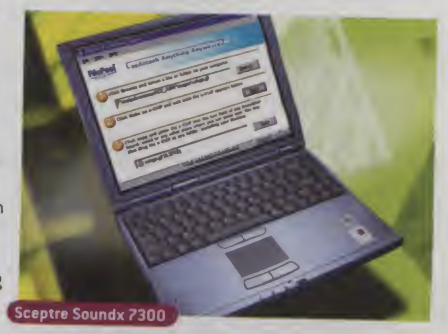
Although Systemax has a well-earned reputation for building affordable, quality desktop systems, the company has truly outdone itself with the $1,149 PJM-T733 Excite PC. Outfitted with a 733MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, a 20GB hard drive, and a 10x DVD-ROM drive, the system delivers superior overall performance at a bargain-basement price. **(See review on p. 96.)**

Systemax • ***www.systemaxpc.com*** • 800-875-8430

MOBILE

Sceptre Soundx 7300

The affordable choice in a fast, lightweight notebook



Sceptre Soundx 7300

It may weigh only 4.1 pounds, but the sporty $2,298 Sceptre Soundx 7300 boasts heavyweight performance with a 600MHz Pentium III and 128MB of RAM. Its sharp 13.3-inch LCD is just the right size for working—or spinning a DVD—in economy class, and its built-in modem and Ethernet will help keep you connected no matter where you roam. **(See review on p. 118.)**

Sceptre Technologies • ***www.sceptre.com*** • 800-788-2878

WEB SERVICES

FilePool

The smart alternative to e-mail attachments

Blocked or corrupted e-mail attachments are a thing of the past with this free online service. Instead of attachments, FilePool lets you store documents, photos, or any other file type on its server, which can be easily accessed by unique 32-character e-Clips embedded in your e-mails, instant messages, Web pages, or documents. **(See review on p. 136.)**

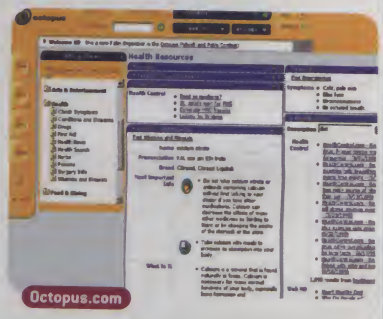
FilePool • ***www.filepool.com*** • 650-616-7500

Octopus.com

Put your own spin on the Web

This innovative service lets you tailor the Web to suit your needs by allowing you to create your own multipage personal portals called "views." Octopus makes it simple to build your views from content culled from other sites or from its own varied selection of links for shopping, conducting searches, receiving news, and other common tasks. It's a great way to tame the wild Web, and it's free. **(See review on p. 138.)**

Octopus.com • ***octopus.com*** • 650-213-5700



Octopus.com

RECENT WINNERS

DESKTOPS

Dell Dimension 4100
(October) With Intel's new 815E chip set under its hood—alongside an 800MHz Pentium III processor and 128MB of 133MHz SDRAM—Dell's $1,839 Dimension 4100 represents an excellent balance between price and performance.
Dell Computer Corp. • ***www.dell.com***
800-388-8542

MOBILE

Compaq Armada M300
(October) This ultraslim $2,899 notebook weighs only 3.4 pounds and features a fast 600MHz Pentium III processor, a 12GB hard drive, and built-in Ethernet support. The optional docking station, meanwhile, adds a CD-ROM, LS-120, or DVD-ROM drive; a second battery; audio-in and -out jacks; and more.
Compaq Computer Corp.
www.compaq.com • 800-888-9909

Compaq Notebook 100
(September) A low-cost laptop with surprisingly few compromises, Compaq's $1,299 Notebook 100 comes standard with a

475MHz AMD K6-2 processor, 64MB of RAM, a 12.1-inch active-matrix screen, and a 5GB hard drive.
Compaq Computer Corp.
www.compaq.com • 800-345-1518

Creative Nomad II MG
(October) Like the original Nomad, the magnesium-encased Nomad II MG packs 64MB of memory, an FM radio tuner, and a voice recorder into a delightfully tiny form factor. But this new $399 unit also features a USB docking cradle, 32 FM station presets, and a radio-record function.
Creative Technology
www.nomadworld.com • 800-998-5227

Dell Inspiron 5000e
(October) With its stunning 1,400x1,050-resolution, 15-inch screen, Dell's $3,459 Inspiron is a DVD movie lover's dream. It's a fully loaded desktop-replacement system with a 750MHz Pentium III, 128MB of SDRAM, a whopping 30GB hard drive, and more.
Dell Computer Corp. • ***www.dell.com***
800-917-3355

Palm m100
(October) Palm's new low-cost device is so cool, it could tempt a Palm V user to downgrade. The $149 Palm m100 has a super-slick design—complete with snap-on covers in trendy colors—and useful new applets, including Note Pad and a travel alarm clock.
Palm • ***www.palm.com*** • 800-235-6325

HARDWARE

Elsa Gladiac
(September) The $329 Gladiac is second to none when it comes to offering the highest

frame rates, resolution, and color depth possible for today's demanding 3D games.
Elsa • ***www.elsa.com*** • 800-272-3572

Hitachi CM771
(September) The world's first flat-face, Invar shadow-mask CRT monitor is as easy on your eyes as it is on your wallet. Priced at about $447, the 19-inch Hitachi CM771 gives you outstanding sharpness and brightness as well as a refreshingly straightforward control set.
Hitachi America • ***www.hitachidisplays.com***
800-441-4832

Mag Technology 770FD

HARDWARE

Mag Technology 770FD

High performance in an inexpensive 17-inch monitor

If you're still amazed by all the 17-inch monitors selling for less than $300, you'll be downright astonished by Mag Technology's 770FD. This monitor uses a flat-face Sony Trinitron FD picture tube, delivers a high-quality image, and sells for only $269. Factor in a three-year warranty, and the 770FD looks like an unbeatable value. **(See review on p. 112.)**

Mag Technology U.S.A. • ***www.maginnovision.com*** • 800-510-0149

Plextor PlexWriter 12/10/32A

Say goodbye to CD "coasters" with this fast CD-RW

Top rewrite and write speeds and unprecedented reliability—what more could you ask for in a CD-RW drive? Plextor's $280 PlexWriter 12/10/32A sets a new standard for CD-RW drives. With its amazing Burn-Proof technology, you can even run other apps while burning a CD-R. **(See review on p. 110.)**

Plextor Corp.
www.plextor.com
800-886-3935

Plextor PlexWriter 12/10/32A

Computer Shopper Best Site Award — TOP SHOPPING SITES

THIS MONTH'S WINNERS

800.com	800.com
eToys	etoys.com
Gateway	gateway.com
IBM	ibm.com/shop

For reviews of this month's winners, go to p. 201.

RECENT BEST SITE WINNERS

SEPTEMBER

Beyond.com	beyond.com
buy.com	buy.com
Computers4Sure.com	computers4sure.com
Crutchfield Corp.	crutchfield.com
Dell Computer Corp.	dell.com
eBay	ebay.com

OCTOBER

Chumbo.com	chumbo.com
Hifi.com	hifi.com
OfficeMax	www.officemax.com
Onvia.com	onvia.com
Outpost.com	outpost.com

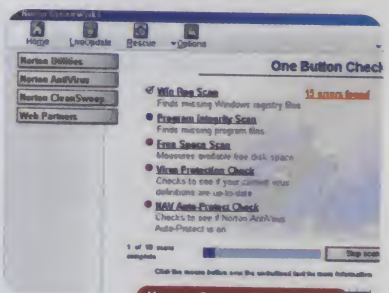
SOFTWARE

Norton SystemWorks 2001

Comprehensive PC protection in one simple package

Our favorite suite of Windows utilities keeps getting better. With its streamlined interface, improved integration, and new features like the One-Button Checkup feature, this new version of SystemWorks gives you unrivaled protection from viruses, crashes, and other computer calamities. It's the best insurance policy you can buy for less than $60. **(See review on p. 134.)**

Symantec Corp. • ***www.symantec.com***
800-441-7234



Norton SystemWorks 2001

Maxtor DiamondMax 60
(October) By limiting the rotational speed of its $329 DiamondMax 60 to 5,400 rpm, Maxtor is able to produce a 60GB hard drive with the highest storage density and the lowest cost per gigabyte we've seen for a mass-market drive.
Maxtor Corp. • ***www.maxtor.com***
800-262-9867

Umax Astra 3400
(October) Priced at $99, this flatbed scanner boasts painless setup, straightforward operation, and fast scan speeds. It also bundles

capable OCR and document-management software.
Umax Technologies • ***www.umax.com***
800-562-0311

SOFTWARE

Extensis Portfolio 5.0
(October) Priced under $200, this powerful media organizer lets you easily categorize and locate files scattered over individual or networked hard drives.
Creativepro.com • ***www.extensis.com***
800-796-9798

L&H Voice Xpress Professional 5.0
(September) This $150 voice-recognition software package is the best example yet of no-hands computing.
Lernout & Hauspie • ***www.lhs.com***
888-537-6688

Norton Personal Firewall
(September) For $50, this Internet utility buys you lots of peace of mind with added privacy protection, automatic updates, and the ability to customize firewall rules.
Symantec • ***www.symantec.com***
800-441-7234

GAMES

Star Trek: Klingon Academy
(October) Arguably the best Star Trek game to date, Klingon Academy puts you in the shoes of a young cadet in the Klingon Defense Forces Elite Command Academy. Your goal is to captain a Klingon warship through the game's 25 captivating missions or in battles of your own design.
Interplay • ***www.interplay.com***
800-468-3775

Tachyon: The Fringe
(September) NovaLogic's first space-combat sim is also one of the year's best—with an intriguing story line, amazing 3D graphics and effects, slick ship controls, and terrific multiplayer games. Deep space has rarely been so inviting.
NovaLogic • ***www.novalogic.com***
800-858-1322

ZDNet Price It!™

	code
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Compaq Notebook 100	33786
Creative Nomad II MG	33862
Dell Dimension 4100	33845
Dell Inspiron 5000e	33861
Elsa Gladiac	33784
Extensis Portfolio 5.0	33843
FilePool	33887
Hitachi CM771	33774
L&H Voice Xpress Professional 5.0	33766
Mag Technology 770FD	33895
Maxtor DiamondMax 60	33827
Norton Personal Firewall	33790
Norton SystemWorks 2001	33886
Octopus.com	33890
Palm m100	33859
Plextor PlexWriter 12/10/32A	33897
Sceptre Soundx 7300	33934
Star Trek: Klingon Academy	33824
Systemax PJM-T733 Excite PC	33893
Tachyon: The Fringe	33777
Umax Astra 3400	33852

For real-time pricing, go to ***priceit.zdnet.com*** and enter number.

The Atlas Gamer Pro Line

Power Gaming PCs with Maximum Performance

PS3000

- AMD Thunderbird/Duron Ready
- 200MHz FSB and UDMA-66 Support
- VIA KT133 PC-133 and 4X AGP Support
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- Nvidia Vanta LT DVD 3D 8MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- PCI 3D Wavetable Stereo Sound
- MLI 120W PMPO Speakers
- 300W AMD Certified Power Supply

AMD Duron™ Processor at 750 MHz $599 A1B04

AMD Duron™ Processor

600 MHz	$549 A1B01	650 MHz	$559 A1B02
700 MHz	$579 A1B03		

AMD Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache(Thunderbird) Processor

800 MHz	$669 A1B05	850 MHz	$689 A1B06
900 MHz	$749 A1B07	950 MHz	$779 A1B08
1000 MHz	$869 A1B09	1100 MHz	$999 A1B10

PS6000

- AMD Thunderbird/Duron Ready
- 200MHz FSB and UDMA-66 Support
- VIA KT133 PC-133 and 4X AGP Support
- 128MB SDRAM
- 30 GB UDMA Hard Drive
- 56X CD ROM
- Nvidia RIVA TNT2 Vanta DVD 3D 16MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- PCI 3D Wavetable Stereo Sound
- MLI 120W PMPO Speakers
- 300W AMD Certified Power Supply

New Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache at 1 GHz $989 A2B09

AMD Duron™ Processor

600 MHz	$669 A2B01	650 MHz	$679 A2B02
700 MHz	$689 A2B03	750 MHz	$719 A2B04

AMD Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache(Thunderbird) Processor

800 MHz	$779 A2B05	850 MHz	$799 A2B06
900 MHz	$859 A2B07	950 MHz	$899 A2B08
1100 MHz	$1,109 A2B10		

PS8000

- AMD Thunderbird/Duron Ready
- 200MHz FSB and UDMA-66 Support
- VIA KT133 PC-133 and 4X AGP Support
- 128MB SDRAM
- 60 GB UDMA Hard Drive
- 50X CD ROM
- Nvidia GEFORCE 2 MX DVD 3D 32MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- SoundBlaster 128V PCI 3D Wavetable
- MLI-460 450W Speakers w/Subwoofer
- 300W AMD Certified Power Supply

New Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache at 900 MHz $1,069 A3B07

AMD Duron™ Processor

600 MHz	$879 A3B01	650 MHz	$889 A3B02
700 MHz	$899 A3B03	750 MHz	$929 A3B04

AMD Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache(Thunderbird) Processor

800 MHz	$989 A3B05	850 MHz	$1,009 A3B06
950 MHz	$1,109 A3B08	1000 MHz	$1,199 A3B09
1100 MHz	$1,319 A3B010		

CERTIFIED ATHLON SYSTEM INTEGRATOR

Atlas Micro uses only AMD certified components in order to achieve maximum performance and reliability. All systems built by Atlas Micro follows a very stringent guideline set forth by AMD to maintain a consistent line of high quality products. At Atlas Micro, we do not compromise quality with lower price.

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The Ultimate Multimedia PCs

Best Buy

AS6000

- AMD Thunderbird/Duron Ready
- 200MHz FSB and UDMA-66 Support
- VIA KT133 PC-133 and 4X AGP Support
- 128MB SDRAM
- 20 GB UDMA Hard Drive
- 12X DVD-ROM
- Nvidia RIVA TNT2 M64 DVD 3D 32MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- PCI 3D Wavetable Stereo Sound
- MLI 120W PMPO Speakers
- 300W AMD Certified Power Supply

AMD Duron™ Processor at 600 MHz $709 A4B01

AMD Duron™ Processor

650 MHz	$719 A4B02	700 MHz	$739 A4B03
750 MHz	$759 A4B04		

AMD Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache(Thunderbird) Processor

800 MHz	$819 A4B05	850 MHz	$839 A4B06
900 MHz	$899 A4B07	950 MHz	$939 A4B08
1000 MHz	$1,029 A4B09	1100MHz	$1,159 A4B10

AS8000

- AMD Thunderbird/Duron Ready
- 200MHz FSB and UDMA-66 Support
- VIA KT133 PC-133 and 4X AGP Support
- 128MB SDRAM
- 40 GB UDMA Hard Drive
- 16X DVD-ROM
- Nvidia GEFORCE 2 MX DVD 3D 32MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- SoundBlaster 128V PCI 3D Wavetable
- MLI-460 450W Speakers w/Subwoofer
- Microsoft Intelli Mouse w/Wheel
- 300W AMD Certified Power Supply

New Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache 800 MHz $999 A5B05

AMD Duron™ Processor

600 MHz	$879 A5B01	650 MHz	$889 A5B02
700 MHz	$909 A5B03	750 MHz	$929 A5B04

AMD Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache(Thunderbird) Processor

850 MHz	$1,019 A5B06	900 MHz	$1,079 A5B07
950 MHz	$1,109 A5B08	1000 MHz	$1,199 A5B09
1100 MHz	$1,329 A5B10		

AS9800

- AMD Thunderbird/Duron Ready
- 200MHz FSB and UDMA-66 Support
- VIA KT133 PC-133 and 4X AGP Support
- 128MB SDRAM
- 40 GB UDMA 7200 RPM Hard Drive
- 16X DVD-ROM
- Nvidia GEFORCE 2 GTS 3D DVD w/TV Out 32MB
- US Robotics PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- Creative SoundBlaster Live Value
- Altec Lansing ACS-54 4-Ch Spkrs w/Subwoofer
- Microsoft Intelli Internet Keyboard
- Microsoft Intelli Mouse w/Wheel
- 300W AMD Certified Power Supply

New Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache at 1 GHz $1,479 A6B06

AMD Duron™ Processor

600 MHz	$1,159 A6B01	650 MHz	$1,169 A6B02
700 MHz	$1,189 A6B03	750 MHz	$1,209 A6B04

AMD Athlon™ w/Enhanced Cache(Thunderbird) Processor

800 MHz	$1,279 A6B05	850 MHz	$1,299 A6B06
900 MHz	$1,359 A6B07	950 MHz	$1,389 A6B08
1100 MHz	$1,609 A6B10		

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- 56X CD ROM
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- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- Yamaha PCI 128V 3D Stereo Wavetable
- MLI 120W PMPO Speakers

Intel Celeron® Processor at 633 MHz $559 S1B01

667 MHz **$569** S1B02 — 700 MHz **$579** S1B03
733 MHz **$609** S1B04

Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor

800 MHz **$669** S1B05 — 850 MHz **$719** S1B06
866 MHz **$729** S1B07 — 933 MHz **$829** S1B08
1000 MHz **$959** S1B09

CS9000

- Intel Coppermine Ready Motherboard
- 133MHz FSB and UDMA 66 Support
- 128MB SDRAM
- 60 GB UDMA Hard Drive
- 56X CD ROM
- Nvidia RIVA TNT2 M64 DVD 3D 32MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- Yamaha PCI 128V 3D Stereo Wavetable
- MLI-460 450W Speakers w/Subwoofer

Pentium® III Coppermine at 800 MHz $939 S2B05

Intel Celeron® Processor

633 MHz **$829** S3B01 — 667 MHz **$839** S3B02
700 MHz **$849** S3B03 — 733 MHz **$879** S3B04

Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor

850 MHz **$989** S2B06 — 866 MHz **$999** S2B07
933 MHz **$1,109** S2B08 — 1000 MHz **$1,229** S2B9

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Performance PCs at an affordable Price

MS8000

- Intel Coppermine Ready Motherboard
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- 20 GB UDMA 7200 RPM Hard Drive
- 56X CD ROM
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- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- SoundBlaster 128V PCI 3D Wavetable
- MLI-460 450W Speakers w/Subwoofer

Intel Celeron® Processor at 733 MHz $699 S3B04

Intel Celeron® Processor

633 MHz **$639** S3B01 — 667 MHz **$649** S3B02
700 MHz **$669** S3B03

Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor

800 MHz **$759** S3B05 — 850 MHz **$809** S3B06
866 MHz **$819** S3B07 — 933 MHz **$919** S3B08
1000 MHz **$1,049** S3B09

MS9000

- Intel Coppermine Ready Motherboard
- 133MHz FSB and UDMA 66 Support
- 128MB SDRAM
- 40 GB UDMA Hard Drive
- 56X CD ROM
- Nvidia GEFORCE 2 MX DVD 3D 32MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- Trident PCI 4D Wave 4-Channel Surround
- MLI-452 4-CH 700W Speakers w/Subwoofer

Pentium® III Coppermine at 866 MHz $969 S4B07

Intel Celeron® Processor

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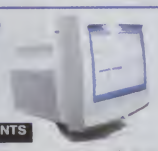

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JOHN BLACKFORD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Paperless Office, Take Six

Sure, you've heard it before. But the successor to paper just might be lurking in a downloaded e-book.

ONE OF THE FEW EXPECTATIONS NOT FULFILLED BY PCs IS that of the paperless office. In fact, the use of paper has proliferated, as fax machines, copiers, and inkjet and laser printers crank out replications of seemingly every article, memo, or image ever created.

Though there's plenty of content produced only as Web pages (no paper), many users still print copies of the pages! Paperless diehards can take comfort in the latest craze: e-books. Here's a phenomenon so oversold in the media that I'm beginning to think there might be something to it.

Note, too, what Amazon.com's Jeff Bezos said of e-books recently: "It's possible to invest too early in industries and have it be a disaster." This from the guy whose promise to sell books on the Web so dazzled investors that Amazon's market value went to the moon. When you hear yesterday's innovators bad-mouth the new kid on the block, take note. E-books could make Amazon a dinosaur. On the other hand, also consider that Amazon is implementing its own e-book store.

Before you toss that antique print library into the bonfire, though, remember the caveats: copyrights, encryption, display technology, and convenience.

WHOSE CONTENT?

Looming behind the e-book phenomenon is the specter of MP3 audio and Napster music sharing. Napster may well be shut down by the time you read this, but similar efforts without a central coordinating site could be harder to defeat.

Precedents established with tape recorders and VCRs held that you could record copyrighted material for your personal use (and that of friends). But suppose your friends are the hundreds of millions of souls with access to the Internet. Can you still share? Every new technology requires new rules, and electronic media is no exception. We'll see a struggle between expectations that Web content is free (consider Britannica.com) and the need for content creators to be paid.

Microsoft jumped into the e-book arena with a vengeance, pushing a consumer-friendly media format that can also be encrypted. Still, it's hard to imagine a format that can't be broken, especially for text. Heck, you could print the book, scan it into a computer, then post it online. For e-books to prosper, legal and technological protections must gain support by users. A level of piracy can be tolerated, as long as it doesn't undercut commercial viability.

But for any of this to matter, people must want electronic books. For now, comparing the best display on a notebook or e-reader to a printed page is a joke. But just as digital imaging has improved to the point where it is about to render film obsolete, display technology will also continue to advance. Steps toward better displays include the recent software announcements of Microsoft's Reader (with ClearType technology) and Adobe's Glassbook reader (capable of rotating text, annotating it, and displaying two pages side by side). Better hardware will help, too, such as Franklin's upcoming release of the eBookMan, a PDA-like device that displays text using Microsoft Reader, reads the text aloud, and plays MP3 files. Even better devices will surely follow.

Publishers McGraw-Hill, Simon & Schuster, and Houghton Mifflin are converting some titles to digital format. Booksellers Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble are cutting deals with publishers and producers of e-readers. In the near future, a wide range of e-books will be available to the public for display on PCs, notebooks, PDAs, and dedicated readers.

As the e-book market grows, sellers must recognize that digital content is cheaper. While a press run of only 10,000 books costs plenty, publishing on the Web costs little. Yet, currently, you get only a couple of dollars' discount on a $15 or $20 book bought online.

COMING SOMEDAY: ELECTRONIC PAPER

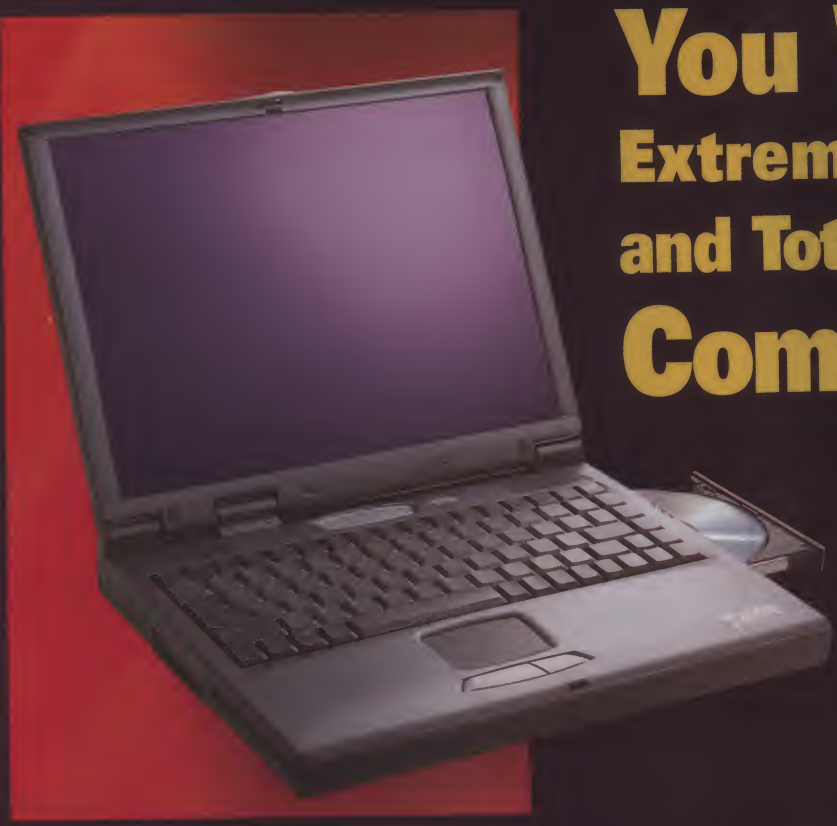
A postscript on the e-book trend: Developments are underway on electronic paper, which can be folded like a magazine but rewritten, as on a computer screen. Xerox and 3M Corp. announced collaboration last year on mass-produced electronic paper, though at present they can display only white and one other color.

If e-books do take off, an intriguing next step would be magazines made of electronic paper and incorporating Bluetooth technology. Then, you could carry a magazine into your doctor's office, and have it updated instantly through Bluetooth's low-power transmitters. Instead of dragging through 2-year-old copies of *Field and Stream*, you'd be reading the current issue of your favorite magazine.

The paperless office? Sadly, printing articles, memos, and Web pages will flourish for years to come—though the better search capability of e-books and e-zines should reduce demand for paper. The electronic counterpart to books and magazines will remain less elegant for some time, but the day will come when paper books are a nostalgia item, not for serious reading.

john_blackford@zdnet.com

ILLUSTRATION BY MARGO DE PAULIS



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JOHN DVORAK

Through the Looking Glasses

Wearable display technology will open new vistas for handheld devices and wireless phones.

I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE OF DISPLAY TECHNOLOGY THROUGH A pair of glasses. What I saw looked like a monitor positioned about 4 feet away. Numerous companies are working on such technology, and we can expect to see a real product from one of them—Sunnyvale, Calif.-based InViso—by next year.

I believe this company has the right combination to make wearable display technology a reality. Now it's time to think about how it fits into the scheme of things.

Eyeglass display technology is not new. The first example I saw was an unusual red display from the MIT Media Lab more than a decade ago. The display produced a monochrome computer image using a raster-graphics-like driver and an odd resolution. It was more of a curiosity than anything else. Several raw LCDs with a strong appeal to gamers have been shipping for a few years now. More recently, Sony and other Japanese vendors have shown advanced versions of these displays that are nothing less than spectacular. Unfortunately, the price tag on them is still too high.

InViso has its competition beat if it can do what it says it can. Using a new LCD-on-silicon technology, the display produces a very high-resolution image. I saw a 640x480 screen, and it appears the company can implement 1,024x768 just as easily. This resolution marks the beginning of a new era of computing if the glasses are inexpensive and comfortable. From the looks of the technology, the glasses should cost much less than a monitor of any sort. This opens a new low-end market segment for computer use, changing the computing landscape in ways we can't fully predict.

Manufacturers of handhelds have already expressed an interest in this technology. Imagine the possibilities if a Palm handheld, for example, could drive a full 1,024x768 display while maintaining its small display for other uses. Handheld makers are aware of InViso's technology and are looking into ways of incorporating it into their systems. One irony here is that Windows CE could challenge the Palm OS because it's more easily adaptable to a 640x480 color environment. You could plug your glasses into your CE machine and get a full computer display.

Other groups looking into this technology are the WAP and 3G phone designers. Japan's i-Mode phone, with its beautiful color display and Web-browsing capability, shows promise. But keeping the typical WAP phone's monochrome display and adding InViso's full-color display capability may be a more cost-effective approach.

For portable computing, we'll also need a portable keyboard. I can see the day when airline passengers will use folding keyboards plugged into small palmtops while wearing these glasses and doing all the things they do today on expensive laptops. With a handheld computer costing perhaps $500 and the display glasses someday costing, say, $200, you'd get a lot of portable computing power for little money and hardly any weight. And these displays use very little power.

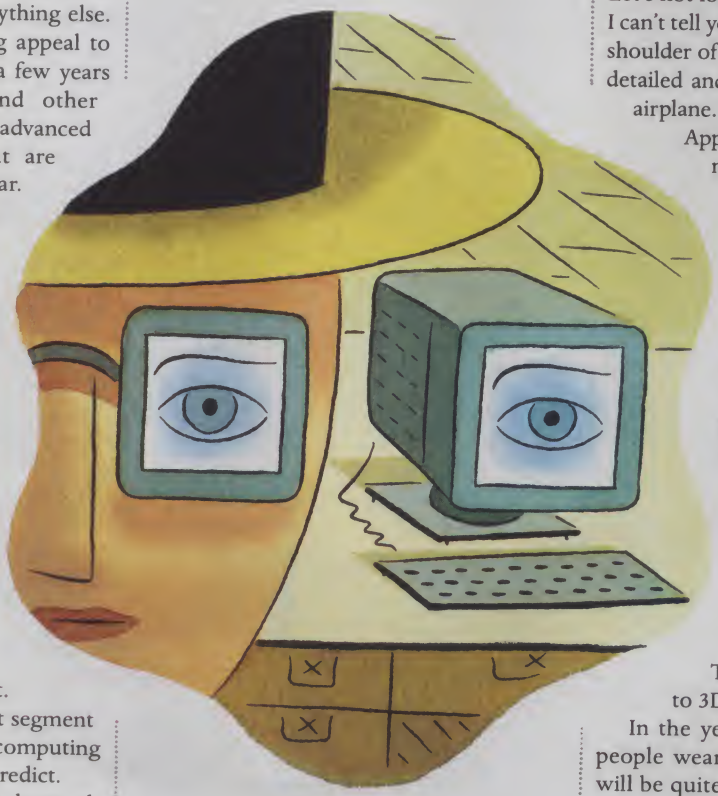

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL S. KLEIN

PRIVATE EYES

Let's not forget the added benefit of privacy. I can't tell you how often I've looked over the shoulder of some businessperson exposing a detailed and confidential spreadsheet on an airplane. I once did a whole column on an Apple strategy a guy spelled out in a memo he was writing while sitting next to me. He was completely oblivious to me glancing over. This kind of information breach in today's business environment is unacceptable—and would be preventable using a wearable display. And if you've ever been popping through files while in public and stumble upon a porn file you accidentally obtained, you can appreciate the value of a private display. This concept also comes in handy when you want to look like you're working, but are watching a movie instead. These displays lend themselves to 3D presentations as well.

In the years ahead we'll see a wave of people wearing these displays. I'm sure it will be quite a sight.

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JIM O'BRIEN

Discount Travel Gets Easier

"Name your price" is challenged by "show the best price."

A NEW DISCOUNT TRAVEL SERVICE HAS ARRIVED TO challenge Priceline.com's reign. Scheduled at press time to launch in October, Hotwire *(www.hotwire.com)* is backed by America West, American, Continental, Northwest, United, and U.S. Airways. Unlike Priceline, where you name your price, Hotwire displays the lowest fare participating airlines will offer to reduce unsold inventory.

You enter the airports, dates, and your degree of tolerance for connecting flights, propeller planes, and red-eyes, and you'll know in seconds whether you need to try another search. Whereas Priceline adds $5.95 plus airport and passenger fees to your winning bid, Hotwire's price includes all taxes and fees. The only restriction is if you miss the 30-minute purchase window, you have to wait 72 hours to get another deal with the same itinerary.

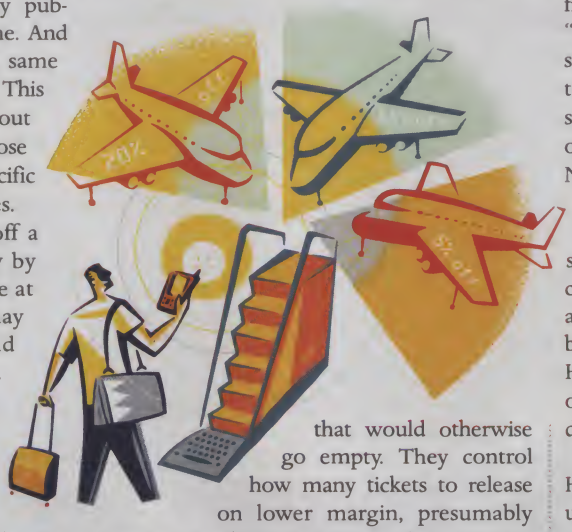
Booking travel online is about better tools and more information. Full-service online travel agents such as Expedia and Travelocity.com show consumers any published fare from just about every airline. And Expedia's Price Matcher offers the same name-your-price features as Priceline. This removes the uncertainty many feel about working with an offline agent, whose incentive may be to recommend specific carriers or even higher-priced itineraries.

Now that all these services run off a handful of databases owned mostly by airlines, you often get the same price at every site. Miss the 14- and 21-day advance-purchase window, and you're still grounded by high prices.

For years, airlines have been searching for cost-effective ways to unload unsold inventory without undercutting their core business. Phone-based ticket consolidators such as Cheap Tickets sprung up in the '80s to market these nonrefundable and unchangeable tickets at low "unpublished" prices to those dedicated enough to endure a harrowing customer experience. Many spent hours on hold, only to learn prices listed in newspaper ads weren't available. If they were, they didn't include all fees, and you generally had to sign for the tickets in person. On the Web, Cheap Tickets *(www.cheaptickets.com)* and other consolidators, such as Lowestfare.com, list a mix of published and discounted fares.

INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Hotwire's show-and-tell approach is even more logical. Airlines get to share their unpublished prices anonymously. They have nothing to lose because they're selling seats that would otherwise go empty. They control how many tickets to release on lower margin, presumably more as the flight date approaches. Hotwire will soon extend this model to car rentals and hotel rooms. As for consumers, they take on less risk by knowing what they're going to pay.



Some of the airlines backing Hotwire are also investing in Orbitz *(www.orbitz.com)*, a full-service Travelocity/Expedia competitor slated to launch this fall. Orbitz claims no supplier bias, and promises a better search capability than those of current sites.

So where do you get the best deal? Hotwire claims 40 percent discounts are possible. In my beta tests, I regularly achieved savings of only 3 percent to 4 percent over Expedia, but two of the six Hotwire airlines hadn't finished posting data at the time of my test. The 40 percent discount may be more attainable the closer you get to the flight date and once you miss the seven, 14-, or 21-day windows for published fares. It's also still possible to find a lower published fare from a nonparticipating airline. For instance, on a round-trip from New York to San Francisco, Hotwire listed a $567 fare; Expedia offered me a spot on Frontier Airlines for $362.

The Cheap Tickets experience was uneven. I saw prices in the $260 range for the same San Francisco flight, but the only flights available for my itinerary cost $866.50. An $11.95 processing fee wasn't included, and a note advised "additional fees" may apply.

Buried in the search results were links promising something similar to Hotwire: up-front pricing on an unnamed airline. This "Super Cheap Tickets" link would offer the same airline as Hotwire for $469, but I'd need to make two stopovers. I couldn't search specifically on these Super Cheap Ticket options, nor could I set preferences for them. Neither Cheap Tickets nor Lowestfare.com identifies published vs. discounted fares.

Expedia's Price Matcher was a pleasant surprise. Though you must bid up-front and commit to buy, as with Priceline, Expedia alerts you to published fares lower than your bid. This suggests a devious strategy: Use Hotwire, then hedge your bet with Priceline or Expedia. The 30-minute purchase window, however, makes it difficult.

Current Priceline users should give Hotwire a try. Those who've been afraid to use Priceline will find Hotwire a joy. It remains to be seen whether those who generally plan ahead will split their usage between a full-service Expedia-like offering and Hotwire. But given all the bad news about travel this year, who's going to quibble over a thing like that?

jobrien_eshopper@mail.com

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ILLUSTRATION BY MATT FOSTER

MICHAEL SLATER

Napster Rocks The Music World

The widespread illegal copying of music will force the industry to change its tune.

WITH LEGAL BATTLES OVER NAPSTER MAKING FRONT-page news, it's plain to see the music industry is being shaken to its roots by the implications of digital audio. The next few months will mark the debut of lots of new digital music devices, and the music industry will never be the same.

Music made the transition to digital two decades ago, when CDs displaced records. CDs didn't change the nature of the music industry, however; the entire business and distribution structure remained intact.

With the emergence of the Internet, the music industry is being forced to rethink its business models. Now that there's a pervasive network to move the bits that make up digital music, and a range of devices that can store the bits and convert them to analog signals, the CD has become an anachronism, as have the stores that sell them.

The device that set off the digital music explosion was Diamond's Rio MP3 player. Using flash memory to store music, this handheld player is the modern replacement for the Walkman. The range of digital music players is broadening dramatically, extending to car players and home stereo equipment.

It won't be long before you'll be able to walk into a hi-fi store and buy a conventional-looking piece of stereo gear with a hard disk, rather than a CD player, for music storage. A little further down the line are home media servers that store video and photos as well as audio. The audio "receiver" then becomes a network-connected device that provides a user interface for selecting music and D/A converters for converting the digital stream from the network into an analog stream to feed the amplifier.

You could store your music library in a digital music server that's part of your stereo system, in a more general-purpose home server, in a home PC acting as a server, or on the Internet. You'll be able to copy, or move, music from the "library" to whichever device you want to play it on.

The recording industry has always been horrified by digital music because it can be copied flawlessly and easily. Some CD players have digital outputs, but few people use them. Now that people are storing music on PCs and Internet servers, however, the music industry's level of concern has risen to sheer panic.

Napster has illustrated all too vividly how the Internet enables the widespread sharing of music. Although it's also for sharing public-domain music, clearly its most popular use is stealing copyrighted music. As access to digital music extends beyond PCs to various kinds of digital music appliances, the effects of copying will become even more widespread.

Idealists would like to see an honor system limit copying. But most teenagers—and many adults—just don't feel there's anything dishonorable about copying music, and changing this attitude would be very difficult. Their rationale is that much of the money from CD sales goes to the record companies and distribution channel rather than the musicians, and that top musicians make huge amounts of money.

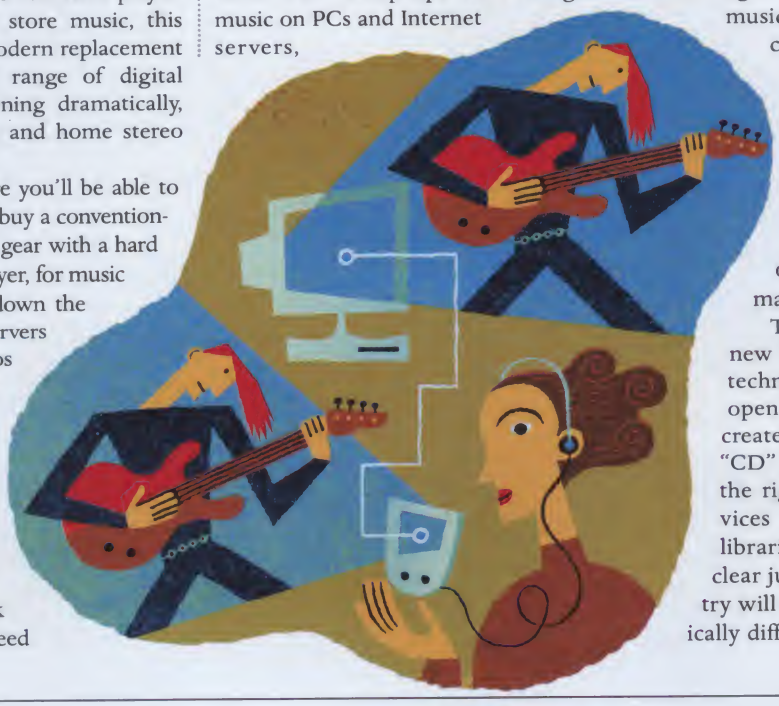
ILLEGAL COPYING CAUSES DISCORD

Over the next few years, the music industry will continue to use its legal muscle in an attempt to control illegal copying, while it devises security schemes to prevent the duplication of copyrighted music without permission. These schemes require some hardware support in the memory cards and players, as well as software and standards. Many techniques are under development, and it will take some time for any of them to become widespread. What's more, they won't protect the digital music already in circulation.

Rights-protection schemes may save the music companies and protect musicians' interests, but nothing will save the record stores. It will be easier to sample music online than in a conventional store. In order to survive, stores will have to focus on offering buying advice and the social appeal of listening to new music with others. Few stores are likely to make the transition.

The music industry must craft new business models to fit the new technology. They'll have to allow the open copying of some music to help create demand for paid music. Buying a "CD" will become a matter of getting the right to download a file. New services will offer access to vast music libraries by subscription. It isn't yet clear just what tomorrow's music industry will look like, but it surely will be radically different from today's.

michael@mslater.com



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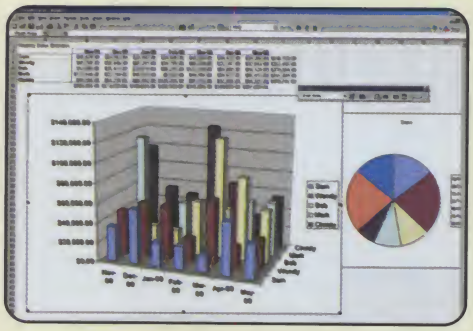

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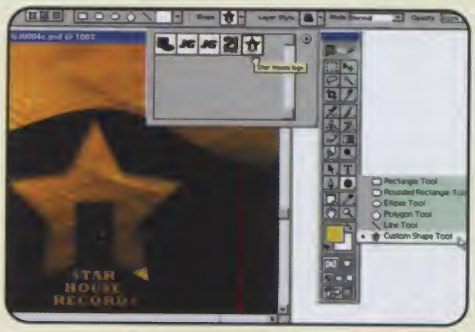

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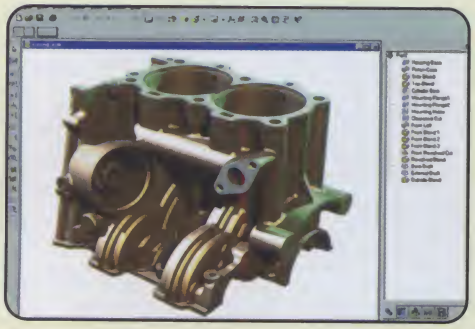

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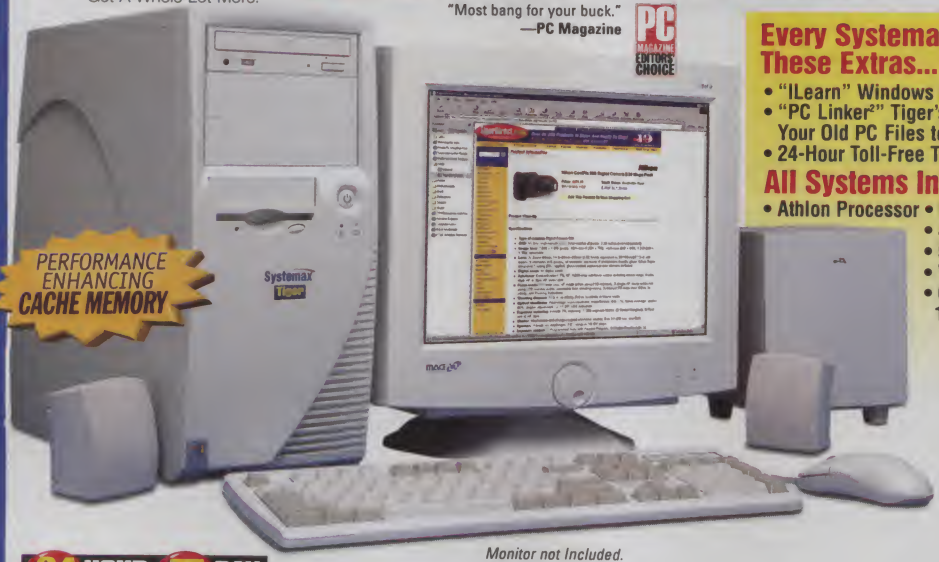

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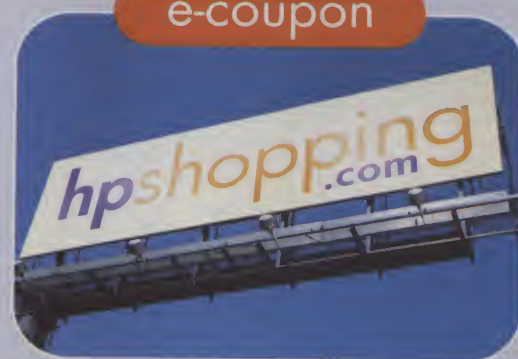

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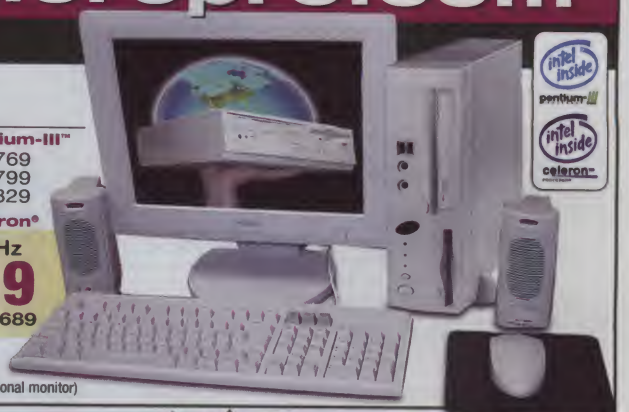

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DESKTOPS

SYSTEMAX PJM-T733 EXCITE PC

An Exciting Entry-Level System

Best Buy November 2000

LOGIC DICTATES THAT WHEN YOU PAY A LITTLE LESS YOU SHOULD expect to get a little less. But while Systemax's PJM-T733 Excite PC may carry an entry-level price and is powered by a 733MHz Pentium III processor, "a little less" is a whole lot more than you could ever get before. This iteration of the Excite T series has a modest $1,149 price, yet it's admirably up to the task of running mainstream business applications, playing games, and even keeping you entertained.

The system's 29.8 Business Winstone 99 score is precisely what we'd expect from a typical 733MHz Pentium III system. The Excite's strong application performance is due in part to its fast 20GB Maxtor DiamondMax hard drive. The entry-level character of the Excite, however, shows through with Systemax's choice of an nVidia Vanta graphics card with 16MB of SDRAM. Although the Vanta is produced by nVidia Corp., it is no GeForce. But then, it wasn't meant to be, and that's reflected in its 230 Business Graphics WinMark 99 result. Nevertheless, we installed and used the Excite's bundled copy of Microsoft Works Suite 2000 and did not find anything we'd even remotely call performance lag.

We did encounter a problem when running 3D WinMark 2000 that prevented the test from completing. Updating the Vanta's drivers to the latest version posted on nVidia's Web site wasn't the solution we thought it would be, so we contacted Systemax. Within a day and a half, we had a driver update for the motherboard's Via chip set that solved the problem. Still, the system's 38.1 score at 800x600 with 16-bit color isn't nearly as impressive as what we've seen from the competition. The games included in the bundled Microsoft Millennium Games pack all played without a hitch, but if you plan on playing the latest games that push 3D-graphics processing power to the limit, this Vanta-based card isn't the graphics card for you.

We were ready to give the three-piece Cyber Acoustics CA3060 speaker system two thumbs down because of its lackluster performance with the games—when the volume was loud, there was too much bass. But when we tried a few audio CDs and then flipped a DVD disc into the 10x DVD-ROM drive (the Excite will come with a 12x DVD-ROM drive by the time you read this), we had a change of heart. The speaker system handled these "real" sounds quite well, even with the volume cranked way up.

The 17-inch Systemax 1725 monitor did well when displaying graphics and video, but viewing DVD movies in letterbox format can feel a little cramped in a 16-inch viewing area. The 19-inch version of this monitor (with an 18-inch viewing area) will only set you back about $139 more, and it could make a substantial difference if you're jumping into the DVD movie arena with both feet.

You'll find a lot of expansion room inside the Excite's 17x7x17-inch (HWD) midtower case, and getting to the interior is as easy as pressing two clips to release the side panel. Two of its three 5.25-inch and one of two 3.5-inch front-accessible bays are vacant. Although the system has a place for an ISA slot silk-screened onto the motherboard, there's no actual ISA slot. Three of the motherboard's five PCI slots are vacant, as are two of the three DIMM sockets.

Systemax offers 24-hour, toll-free customer support, and covers the Excite with a three-year parts-and-labor warranty (with five years of parts coverage for the CPU and memory) and onsite service for the first year. You can tack another two years onto the onsite coverage for an additional $99. But users who don't opt for extending the onsite support will be happy to learn that Systemax will cover all shipping costs for warranty repairs.

The company manages to pack a lot of power into this entry-level system. In fact, it's only the lack of a competitive 3D-graphics engine that that keeps us from completely raving about the PJM-T733 Excite PC. But as long as you can live without scorching 3D graphics, the Excite represents an excellent value. Don't forget that the Excite's configuration can be easily changed, so if you don't mind spending a bit more, you can always order the system with a more powerful graphics card.

—*Bill O'Brien*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Excellent price; good overall performance

Disappointing 3D-graphics performance

SYSTEM: Systemax PJM-T733 Excite PC
COMPANY: Systemax
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AS TESTED: 733MHz Pentium III; 128MB 133MHz SDRAM; 20GB hard drive; 10x DVD-ROM drive; nVidia Vanta-based graphics card with 16MB SDRAM; 17-inch Systemax 1725 monitor; Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value sound card; three-piece Cyber Acoustics CA3060 speaker system; V.90 voice modem; Microsoft Works Suite 2000; additional software
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- **ALTEC LANSING ACS33 Subwoofer Speakers**
  upgrade: Altec Lansing ACS54 5 Pieces @ $25
- MS Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- **Free COREL Office 2000 & 70+ Software Pack**
- **Free One Year On-Site Warranty**
- 10x4x32 CD-Writable - add $249
- 100MB Internal ZIP Drive - add $49

INTEL PENTIUM III 733	$ 1555	(grpsp111)
INTEL PENTIUM III 800	$ 1583	(grpsp112)
INTEL PENTIUM III 850	$ 1644	(grpsp113)
INTEL PENTIUM III 933	$ 1799	(grpsp114)
INTEL PENTIUM III 1000	$ 1975	(grpsp115)
INTEL PENTIUM III 1300	$ 2289	(grpsp116)

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- **AOpen THUNDERBIRD 4x AGP MB**
  upgrade: ASUS 4x AGP MB @ $55
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- 3COM US Robotics V.90 Modem w/Voice
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  upgrade Nvidia Geforce-2 GTS DDR 64MB @ $79
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  upgrade: C.L. Sound Blaster Live X-Gamer @ $49
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  upgrade: Altec Lansing ADA305 Speakers @ $69
- MS Windows 98 SE or Millennium Edition
- **Free COREL Office 2000 & 70+ Software Pack**
- **Free One Year On-Site Warranty**

AMD ATHLON 800	$ 1969	(gdsp111)
AMD ATHLON 850	$ 2025	(gdsp112)
AMD ATHLON 900	$ 2079	(gdsp113)
AMD ATHLON 950	$ 2149	(gdsp114)
AMD ATHLON 1000	$ 2275	(gdsp115)
AMD ATHLON 1100	$ 2459	(gdsp116)

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DESKTOPS

POLYWELL 700DU

Hit the Mark With A Silver Bullet

POLYWELL COMPUTERS' SILVER TOWERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN VISUAL standouts compared to typical boring beige cases. Of course, it's what's inside a system that ultimately determines its value. Polywell's 700DU system, with the new 700MHz AMD Duron processor under its hood and a low direct price of $1,295, should make the competition stand up and take notice.

AMD's Duron processor is a lower-cost version of its Athlon and is AMD's response to Intel Corp.'s low-cost Celeron processor (which includes a 32K L1 cache and an integrated 128K L2 cache). Both AMD CPUs feature a 128K L1 cache, but the Athlon has a 256K L2 cache, while the Duron makes do with a 64K L2 cache. Most other aspects of the two processors are the same, including the use of integrated L2 caches that run at the same speed as the CPU.

In addition to the Duron CPU, Polywell has empowered the 700DU with 128MB of 133MHz SDRAM, an nVidia TNT2 M64-based graphics card with 32MB of SDRAM, a 20.5GB Western Digital ATA/66 hard drive, a 12x DVD-ROM drive, and a 17-inch display. That's a very respectable peripheral list for a low-cost system.

Getting the 700DU to perform to its potential, however, took a little effort. We were forced to do some fine-tuning after we saw unexpectedly slow hard drive and application performance. Fortunately, we found the solution right away: The DMA setting for the hard drive had not been enabled. Once we enabled DMA, the system's performance improved significantly. In fact, its Business Winstone 99 score of 27.4 is in the same ballpark as other 700MHz Athlon- and Pentium III-based systems we've looked at.

Although the 700DU demonstrated fast hard drive and 2D-graphics subsystems, its 3D-graphics performance leaves something to be desired. The system's 3D WinMark 2000 scores of 43 at 800x600 and 34.6 at 1,024x768 (both with a 16-bit palette) are not half bad, but may not satisfy gamers looking for more power. Polywell's inclusion of an older TNT2 M64 engine was obviously a move to help keep the system's cost down.

Next on our list was DVD movie playback performance. While using the bundled CyberLink PowerDVD software, we were met with sloppy, stuttering playback. Even though the movie we used was not particularly action-packed, the results were akin to what we've seen with much slower systems. It turned out that a DMA setting was once again the culprit—this time for the DVD-ROM drive. Once we enabled the drive's DMA setting, movie playback became as smooth as it would be in any movie house. Polywell claims the disabled DMA settings were an oversight, and that these settings are usually enabled on the systems the company sends out.

While a 19-inch monitor would be a better—albeit more expensive—choice, our system's 17-inch Optiquest Q71 monitor is a solid option for watching movies. The display's 16-inch diagonal viewing area offers palatable colors and sharp definition. The two-piece Sound Force 550 speakers, on the other hand, are adequate for gaming but less so for home theater.

Unlike most other inexpensive systems, the 700DU comes with room for potential future upgrades, with two free front-accessible drive bays and two unoccupied PCI slots. And getting to the inside is a snap—literally. Just push in a latch on the front edge of the side panels, tug gently, and the shell slides away from the chassis.

The standard warranty covers the system's parts for three years and labor for five years via depot-return service. Toll-free technical support is available 24 hours daily for the first year of the warranty. After the first year, however, phone support is available only during business hours on weekdays and for four hours on Saturdays. You can purchase better optional coverage on both fronts: For $75 per year (up to five years), you can get onsite service, and $35 per year (also for up to five years) buys you 24-hour, toll-free phone support.

Even factoring in the cost of upgrading the service and support, the Polywell 700DU remains an excellent value. This system raises the bar for entry-level performance without seriously challenging entry-level pricing.

—*Bill O'Brien*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Inexpensive; excellent application performance; good upgrade potential

Disappointing 3D-graphics performance; onsite support optional

SYSTEM: Polywell 700DU
COMPANY:
Polywell Computers
So. San Francisco, CA
800-999-1278, 650-583-7222
www.polywell.com
AS TESTED: 700MHz AMD Duron; 128MB 133MHz SDRAM; 20.5GB hard drive; 12x DVD-ROM drive; nVidia TNT2 M64-based graphics card with 32MB SDRAM; 17-inch Optiquest Q71 monitor; integrated Sigmatel 9708 audio chip; two-piece Sound Force 550 speaker system; V.90 WinModem; Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition
DIRECT PRICE: $1,295

ZDNet Price It!™ 33898

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

guide to e-business

Putting your company on the Web doesn't have to be difficult. In this special supplement, you will learn the essentials of starting and sustaining an e-business from establishment through expansion. Hardware to hosting. Software to site design. Follow this guide and you'll be able to take your business from here to e-ternity without any roadblocks. We'll show you the way.

e-business essentials

establishing – or expanding – a Web-based business

– by Michelle Delio

E-commerce is essential to any company that hopes to compete in the new economy. International Data Corporation (www.idc.com) has projected that 46 million Americans will buy $16 billion worth of goods annually on the Internet by next year, and $54 billion by 2002. Jupiter Communications (www.jup.com) predicts non-service B2B e-commerce in the U.S. will be worth $6.3 trillion, or 42 percent of the market, by 2005.

That's why e-business is so hot. Increasingly, business people can bring their goods and services to a global audience and connect directly with their clients and business partners. It's about eliminating the middleman. And that pays off for both suppliers and customers.

But businesses pursuing e-commerce realize that they're encountering entirely new technical, developmental and operational challenges. Suddenly the world of nerds has collided with the world of business — not just big business but every business — and it seems that no one is speaking your language anymore.

The simple truth that gets lost in the confusion is that the fundamentals of e-business are the very same basics that fuel any successful business. You need to figure out what you want to do, determine the appropriate business model and then create the physical and virtual infrastructure, the service and support resources and the operating partnerships that will enable you to succeed in this new world.

Fundamentals

Most businesses get their start on the Web via the "content only approach" — a website that houses what is essentially an electronic brochure. This gives you an online presence akin to having an ad in your local yellow pages. It's an essential way to advertise and a good first step — but it's not an e-business.

The next step, for most companies, is tying their website to a part of their business, usually by establishing an electronic catalog that operates 24/7 and makes it easy for customers to order products online.

Once that system is up and running, companies typically begin to totally integrate all of the core business functions with the website — allowing ordering and credit verification, fulfillment and order tracking, inventory control, customer service, and client interaction to happen online. The end result is an e-commerce-enabled Web presence that is a true electronic extension of your company.

But how do you get from here to there? Start by reviewing the basics and making sure the essential building blocks for e-commerce — business PCs, Web-hosting services, e-commerce partners, e-service and support, and online training — are in place and up to the task.

Hardware and Software

Hardware is a crucial consideration that's often neglected in the rush to "go live" with a website. Before you launch an e-commerce site or upgrade your existing site, do a hardware and systems inventory.

The equipment that you'll need is dependent on your business plan. One size doesn't fit all, which is why we recommend customizing hardware solutions to fit your needs. But of course, any e-business needs to be backed by high-performance desktop computers and servers.

WHAT'S BROADBAND?

HOW DO YOU PUT AN E IN FRONT OF YOUR BUSINESS?

WHAT DOES THE 'E' STAND FOR?

WHAT'S AN APP?

WILL IT WORK?

ARE KILLER APP'S REALLY ALL THAT DANGEROUS

The best advice is to plan as if you'll be opening a new branch of your business — because that's exactly what your e-commerce site is. Will you need more computers? Faster ones? Will you need graphics tools like scanners or digital cameras to get images onto the Web?

You also need to make sure your Internet connection is up to the new demands that will be placed on it. Chances are you already have contracted for a leased line (T1) or other broadband service. Check with your provider and see if it can help you assess your new needs. Or, if you're starting from scratch with an e-business, research several Internet service providers and see what high-speed connection options they offer.

Web Hosting

Once you've got your computer equipment and systems in place, you'll need a home for your website.

Web-hosting services house the data that will be served up to the visitors of your site. There are several websites that make it easier to evaluate the various Web-hosting services. TopHosts.Com has a monthly Top 25 list of the best hosts and an extensive, searchable database of e-commerce information. HostIndex lists and reviews Web hosts (www.HostIndex.com). And c|net's Builder.com is an excellent and very impartial resource for gathering information on hosting services (www.builder.com/Servers/WebHosting/).

You should, of course, make sure your host offers e-commerce services. That sounds obvious, but some types of accounts, such as those offered with basic Internet accounts, are for personal use and cannot be used for e-commerce.

Some sites offer free Web hosting, but these often lock you into limited design templates and into displaying ads from other companies on your site. This is not an area where you want to scrimp.

Once you have narrowed the choices to a few select hosts, find out what their performance guarantees are — what percentage of time do they guarantee your website will be live and operational? And is the service scalable? If customers complain that your website is inaccessible or slow at certain times of the day, will the hosting company work with you on increasing access levels?

Also ask about security: How is your data stored and protected? Who has access to it? How is the physical location secured against intruders and natural disasters? Is your data backed up?

Once you have narrowed the choices to a few select hosts, find out what their performance guarantees are — what percentage of time do they guarantee your website will be live and operational?

Make sure any hardware you buy or services you sign on for are scalable — that they can easily be upgraded or adapted to suit your changing needs. With PCs this means making sure the machine has available slots for more RAM and add-ons like a new processor, networking cards or graphics accelerators.

Most business computers, except for those at the very lowest end, are scalable. Many home systems are not. So it is best to stick with hardware designed for business use.

There's a lot to learn about e-commerce, and you won't be able to grow your business unless you really understand the rules of the game. A good way to keep ahead of the curve is to sign up for online training by industry experts or advanced self-study tutorials. You can save thousands of dollars on computer training for staff or brush up your own skills as your schedule permits.

WHAT'S WEB HOSTING?

IS IT SOMETHING INSECTS DO?

DEDICATED?

JUST WHO ARE THESE HOSTS?

DO YOU NEED BOTH A HOST AND A SERVER

WHAT ABOUT A BARTENDER?

IS THERE TECH HELP

AT 3AM

WHAT ABOUT SUNDAYS? HOLIDAYS?

WHAT IF THE E-BUSINESS STUFF CRASHES OR SOMETHING?

WHAT'S WITH TECH GUYS AND

GREEN HAIR?

WHAT ABOUT THE

NOSE RINGS

SN'T IT PAINFU

intel inside pentium® III

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Be sure to see what other benefits the host offers — will they help you set up services that enable you to process electronic payments? Do they offer online access to software that will let you build your site?

Obviously, your Web host is a core part of your e-commerce venture. The service it provides will reflect directly on your company — visitors to your site will assume slow load times or service outages are your fault. And if the Web host goes out of business, or even mishandles their business, your business may go right down with them.

piecing together the various parts of an e-solution for your business is a difficult proposition. You need the proper hardware; you may need a company to host your website, build the site, and other applications to handle business on your end.

Companies are increasingly choosing to free themselves to focus on their core business by aligning themselves with partners who have significant technological and Internet experience. This can take the form of outsourcing components, or the entire e-commerce side of your business, to providers who

Creative Good's CEO Marc Hurst speculates that if just 25 percent of those misfired search attempts had succeeded, online retailers would have earned an additional $3 billion this year.

Site Design

Recently Creative Good, a research and consulting firm, conducted a test of e-commerce sites. Representatives of the company watched 45 "average" online shoppers as they attempted to locate and purchase items from various Internet sites. Thirty-nine percent of shoppers failed in their buying attempts because they found the sites too difficult to use. And 56 percent of the search attempts — using the sites' own search engines — also failed.

Creative Good's CEO Marc Hurst speculates that if just 25 percent of those misfired search attempts had succeeded, online retailers would have earned an additional $3 billion this year. And when you add the $3.7 billion lost from the 39 percent that failed in their initial shopping attempts — Hurst claims the result is a total of more than $6 billion in unrealized sales.

Putting It All Together

As you may have discovered, getting a basic site onto the Web is easy — but getting a full-fledged e-commerce site up and keeping it up and running all the time can be a challenge.

Unless you're a Fortune 500 company with a slew of highly paid rocket scientists on your payroll,

can supply and maintain the technical requirements of a vigorous e-business solution — infrastructure that's robust and can grow with you, the backbone to host your website and support electronic payment and delivery systems, education to keep you competitive, service that will keep your computers up and running all the time, and total accountability for every single product and service offering.

Before contracting with a partner, ensure that it has a strong service reputation, and — if applicable — a solid network that is built to handle heavy, round-the-clock usage. All outsourcing contracts should always include service level agreements with guarantees for uptime — guarantees that the system will be accessible by users as needed, easy-to-reach help desk assistance as necessary, and immediate one-point contact support if problems arise.

That's it. Once you know where to look for the proper building blocks, e-commerce becomes as straightforward and understandable as any other aspect of your business. Don't allow yourself to get lost in the jungle of tech-speak and killer-apps-of-the-week. The key is to remember to use what you already know to make your e-business grow and be willing to think beyond the box. ■

GIGA-WHO?

DEDICATED? CO-LOCATED?

DOES AN E-BUSINESS NEED TO EMPLOY SOMEONE WHO SPEAKS NERD?

ALWAYS ON? ON WHAT?

IP?

ISP?

VPN?

ASP?

B2B?

WP? MAZ? DSL? USB?

WHAT'S AN "ACRONYM"?

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DESKTOPS

ACER VERITON 7100-C533A

Acer's Business Building Block

beta

BUSINESS DESKTOP SYSTEMS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. BUT WHILE they all aim for easy manageability and serviceability, some get closer to this goal than others. Acer America Corp. attempts to grab this particular bull by the horns with its Veriton 5100 desktop and 7100 midtower line of systems, but inevitably falls a bit short. The Veriton is intended for companies with roughly 100 to 300 users and is based on the Intel 815E chip set, which provides an affordable compromise of performance and expandability.

We looked at a preproduction version of a 533MHz Celeron-based Veriton 7100-C533A. Our $755 system included 64MB of 100MHz SDRAM, a 10GB ATA/66 Seagate hard drive, a 40x Acer CD-ROM drive, an integrated 10/100Mbps Intel network interface, and a 56Kbps modem. (The shipping version may have slight differences in its final configuration.) Our system also came with an optional 17-inch Acer G772 monitor, which boosted the total system price to $999.

The Veriton 7100 series is available in configurations that range from our entry-level system up to an 866MHz Pentium III with 128MB of 133MHz SDRAM, a 20GB hard drive, a 48x CD-ROM drive, and an 8x CD-RW drive. All Veritons are compliant with Wired for Management 2.0 and ACPI 1.0. Though Acer gives volume discounts and can provide custom software bundles, it doesn't have a specialized support mechanism in place for enterprise customers.

Regrettably, the Veriton 7100's case isn't designed for quick access—you need to remove four screws to take off the sides and then use finger latches to remove the front bezel. (The Veriton 5100 has a tool-free chassis.) The Veriton 7100 does offer some room for expandability, however: Two PCI slots are unoccupied, as are the AGP slot (the 815E chip provides the system's graphics acceleration), two front-accessible 5.25-inch drive bays, and one internal 3.5-inch bay. In addition to the usual complement of ports on the back of the system, the Veriton 7100 also includes microphone and headphone jacks on the front of the system, as well as two USB ports (for a total of four USB ports).

The two front-mounted USB ports are intended for use with the system's Logitech mouse and Acer keyboard. The keyboard includes A/V, Internet, and user-programmable function keys, as well as a blue removable wrist guard that matches the accent colors on the system case and the two-piece Acer speaker system. The speakers provide adequate-sounding audio good enough for most needs. They are designed to mount on the sides of optional Veriton monitors, which weren't available in time for this review. Instead, Acer included the G772 monitor.

The Veriton 7100's performance is in line with other systems we've tested in this class. And though its Business Winstone 99 score of 18.5 certainly isn't the fastest performance available today, it should be swift enough for most mainstream applications. If you plan to use the Veriton 7100 for some after-hours game playing, however, you may want to consider a higher-end Veriton 7100 system that ships with an nVidia TNT2-based graphics accelerator. Although the 815E performs some 3D-graphics acceleration, it doesn't quite measure up to the level of performance you'll need to play many 3D games.

Our system came loaded with Windows 98 Second Edition, PC-Doctor for Windows, and PC-cillin antivirus software. Shipping systems will also include the latest version of Intel LANDesk Client Manager, the Time Machine system-recovery utility, and an Acer CPR recovery CD. The system ships with Windows 98, but the Veriton line is also available with Windows 2000 for about $80 more.

Service and support for the Veriton 7100 includes round-the-clock toll-free phone support and a three-year parts-and-labor warranty, with the first year of coverage onsite. As we went to press, Acer was still assembling its Web presence for the Veriton 7100, but by the time you read this, expect a bevy of technical documentation and downloads to be available—as is evidenced by Acer's online support of its other systems.

Acer is not the only game in town when it comes to business-oriented systems. And the Veriton 7100's lack of both a tool-less chassis and specialized support for enterprise customers could be two big strikes against it for those users who require a true corporate-friendly system. On the other hand, the Veriton 7100-C533A's upgrade potential, strong application performance, and aggressive low price might be exactly what some IT professionals are looking for in a system.

—Bruce Brown

★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Inexpensive; competitive performance; convenient front-mounted USB ports

Not a tool-less chassis; no specialized support for enterprise customers

SYSTEM: Acer Veriton 7100-C533A
COMPANY: Acer America Corp. San Jose, CA 800-733-2237, 408-432-6200 *www.acer.com*
AS TESTED: 533MHz Celeron; 64MB 100MHz SDRAM; 10GB hard drive; 40x CD-ROM drive; integrated Intel 815E graphics chip set using up to 8MB system memory; 17-inch Acer G772 monitor; integrated Intel 82801 audio chip; Acer stereo speaker system; integrated 10/100Mbps network interface; 56Kbps modem; Intel LANDesk Client Manager; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: $999 (including optional monitor)

ZDNet Price It!™ 33899

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

HARDWARE

ATI RADEON 64MB DDR

A New 3D-Graphics Powerhouse

IF YOU THOUGHT THE NVIDIA GEFORCE2 GTS HAD won the battle of the fastest 3D-graphics accelerator, you might be in for a surprise. ATI Technologies has fired a major salvo with its new Radeon graphics processor, which powers the company's $349-estimated Radeon 64MB DDR graphics card.

The Radeon chip's two key features are its Charisma Engine and Pixel Tapestry architecture. Charisma handles the transformation, clipping, and lighting functions. It also supports four-matrix vertex skinning, the rendering technique used to display an animated character's "skin" between its skeletal joints. A four-matrix solution provides smoother and more realistic-looking character movements than the two-matrix approach of the GeForce2. Pixel Tapestry is the Radeon's detail engine, allowing up to three textures to be rendered in a single pass. (The GeForce2 does up to two at a time.)

Although its 16-bit color score of 107 on 3D WinMark 2000 (at a 1,024x768 resolution) was not shabby by any means, the Radeon was about 21 percent slower than a GeForce2-based board with 32MB DDR. However, when we bumped the color up to 32-bit, the Radeon's score of 102 pushed ahead of the GeForce2 by about 10 percent. We kept the color depth at 32-bit and put the Radeon through the paces with Quake III Arena. The resulting 76.3 frames per second was faster than our eyes could follow.

The card includes composite and S-Video outputs for sending the signal to a TV set, and a composite-video input jack for video capture. The Radeon also supports hardware MPEG-2 conversion and DVD movie playback.

Much of the chip set's advanced feature set was designed with an eye toward rendering technologies and techniques that have yet to be built into games. If ATI's predictions materialize, the Radeon will be in a unique position to display these future games at their highest quality settings and frame rates. In the meantime, the Radeon is still an excellent, albeit somewhat costly, choice for gaming in true color at high resolutions. —*Bill O'Brien*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
High frame rates at 32-bit color
Expensive

PRODUCT: ATI Radeon 64MB DDR
COMPANY: ATI Technologies
Thornhill, ON, Canada
905-882-2600
www.ati.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $349
ZDNet Price It!™ 33883
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

GUILLEMOT HERCULES 3D PROPHET II MX

Vision of a Lesser Prophet

THE NVIDIA GEFORCE2 GTS MAY BE THE MOST ubiquitous consumer-level graphics engine right now, but it's also one of the most expensive. So it should come as no surprise that nVidia has introduced a "lite" version of the chip, the GeForce2 MX.

The MX renders 20 million triangles per second—about 80 percent of the capability of the faster GeForce2 GTS. Guillemot Corp.'s $149.99-estimated Hercules 3D Prophet II MX mates the MX engine with 32MB of SDR SDRAM, targeting anyone looking for a low-cost upgrade to the latest generation of graphics processors.

The price of the 3D Prophet II MX might be right, but its performance leaves something to be desired. The card's 3D WinMark 2000 scores of 58.0 and 86.4 at a resolution of 1,024x768 with 32-bit and 16-bit color, respectively, are actually 15 percent and 8 percent slower than older GeForce 256-based cards. This 3D-graphics-performance lag is even more noticeable when compared to GeForce2 GTS cards or the ATI Radeon 64MB DDR card reviewed above. Garnering 45.2 frames per second on Quake III Arena is very respectable for the 3D Prophet II MX, but it doesn't come close to what the Radeon is capable of. The 3D Prophet II MX's 2D-graphics performance, however, is comparable to what we've seen from GeForce2 GTS cards, as well as the Radeon.

The 3D Prophet II MX supports software-based DVD movie playback—but so does just about every other graphics card these days. And although the GeForce2 MX graphics processor includes simultaneous multimonitor support, that feature is not built into this version of the card. The 3D Prophet II MX also lacks the video-out capability found in some less expensive cards.

We applaud Guillemot's effort to address the middle of the market, but the card's mediocre 3D-graphics performance and lack of compelling features make it difficult to give the 3D Prophet II MX a rousing ovation. —*B.O'B.*

★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
Impressive 2D performance; affordable price
Mediocre 3D-graphics performance; lack of competitive features

PRODUCT: Guillemot Hercules 3D Prophet II MX
COMPANY: Guillemot Corp.
Montreal, QC, Canada
877-484-5536
www.hercules.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $149.99
ZDNet Price It!™ 33896
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

HARDWARE

PLEXTOR PLEXWRITER 12/10/32A

A Faster, Smarter CD Burner

Best Buy November 2000

WHAT MAKES PLEXTOR CORP.'S PLEXWRITER 12/10/32A so remarkable is that it not only sets new standards for CD rewrite (10x) and write (12x) speeds, it raises the bar of CD-creation reliability to unprecedented heights. Its $280-estimated price might be a tad high, but you'll more than make up for it with the savings of having no ruined discs.

Typically, CD-R drives must create audio and data CDs in a continuous write operation, where even a momentary interruption will result in a spoiled CD. Thanks to its Burn-Proof technology, however, the PlexWriter is able to recover from interruptions and resume writing exactly where it left off. This means that you can still use your computer while you burn CDs, knowing that the activity of other programs won't cause the write process to fail.

It also means that you can copy files to a CD at 12x, even if the source drive can't sustain such a high continuous data rate. For example, we created an audio CD from MP3 files on a network drive—a source that most CD writers would find too slow and sporadic at any speed. The PlexWriter finished creating a full disc, despite frequent (albeit momentary) interruptions, in less than 10 minutes.

The IDE drive turned in a CD-ROM WinMark 99 score of 1,080, a read speed that is at the high end for CD-RW drives. It took 6 minutes and 36 seconds to copy a full CD to a CD-R disc, and only 4 minutes and 40 seconds to copy 300MB of data from the hard drive to a CD-RW.

Plextor includes a decent software bundle, including Adaptec's Easy CD Creator 4, and its own Plextor Manager 2000 for disc copying, audio-CD creation, and digital audio extraction. (The company's Res-Q backup program is $35 extra.) Add in Plextor's reputation for quality, and the conclusion is inescapable: If you want a high-performance CD-RW drive with top-shelf CD-creation reliability, the PlexWriter 12/10/32A is the one to get.

—Sheldon Leemon

★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
Excellent performance; top reliability
Slightly more expensive than competition

PRODUCT: Plextor PlexWriter 12/10/32A
COMPANY: Plextor Corp. Santa Clara, CA 800-886-3935, 408-980-1838 *www.plextor.com*
MFR. EST. PRICE: $280

ZDNet Price It! 33897
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

COMPAQ IPAQ HOME INTERNET APPLIANCE

Compaq's Warm Web Welcome

SEASONED PC USERS MAY NOT NEED COMPAQ Computer Corp.'s new iPaq Home Internet Appliance, but the computer-shy among us are likely to adore it. This small and remarkably easy-to-use gadget provides an inexpensive solution for people who merely want to explore the Web and get started with e-mail and instant messaging.

The iPaq, which sells for $199 with a three-year commitment to MSN, is similar to other appliances in this emerging category, such as the $199 Netpliance i-opener we looked at in the June issue of *Computer Shopper.* (See "The Quest for the Best," p. 154.) The iPaq consists of little more than a bright 10-inch color LCD screen atop a processing unit, and a wireless keyboard. The keyboard lacks function keys and a numeric keypad, but it includes 10 shortcut keys to mail, help, search, Web favorites, shopping, news, and the like.

Setup is flat-out simple; we were online within 5 minutes of opening the box. Four USB ports accommodate options such as a mouse (a better alternative to the keyboard's PushPad) or the Epson 740 color inkjet printer that's been specially designed to go with the unit. You'll also find a PC Card slot for other add-ons.

Once online, the iPaq displays an interface based on a simple MSN home page to which you add all your favorite sites and services. You must use MSN as your ISP, though the $21.95 monthly fee gets you only one e-mail address. The operating system is a Microsoft Windows CE derivative, which includes Internet Explorer 4.0 and MSN Messenger Service instant messaging. Performance is adequate given the speed of the built-in 56Kbps modem. An Ethernet port on the back of the iPaq hints at a potential broadband connection, but the port isn't usable at this time.

As an always-on device, the iPaq automatically receives upgrades overnight, and there's no daily bootup ritual to scare technophobes. When non-operational, the screen displays an image you can change. Overall, we believe the device's one-button operation and low cost make it a great online starting point for your PC-phobic friends and family members.

—Don Willmott

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
Easy setup; sleek design; simple operation
Only one e-mail account; no access to pre-existing e-mail accounts

PRODUCT: Compaq iPaq Home Internet Appliance
COMPANY: Compaq Computer Corp. Houston, TX 800-888-0220, 281-370-0670 *www.compaq.com*
MFR. EST. PRICE: $199 (with a three-year commitment to MSN for $21.95 per month)

ZDNet Price It! 33881
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CyberVision C70 17" .27, 1280x1024

733MHZ $899

750MHZ.....$919	800MHZ....$929
850MHZ....$969	866MHZ.....$999

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CyberVision C70 17" .27, 1280x1024

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650MHZ.....$849	
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Corel Office 2000: WordPerfect 9, QuattraPro 9, Corel Presentation 9, Trellix 2
CyberVision C70 17" .27, 1280x1024

DURON 700MHZ $1099

800MHZ.....$1189	
850MHZ.....$1199	900MHZ....$1269
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UNITEDM8000

800MHZ AMD ATHLON™ K7 PROCESSOR W/FULL-SPEED ON-DIE CACHE & 200MHZ TRANSFER RATE
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ALTEC LANSING ACS33 SPEAKERS W/SUBWOOFER
Corel Office 2000: WordPerfect 9, QuattraPro 9, Corel Presentation 9, Trellix 2
CyberVision C70 17" .27, 1280x1024

800MHZ $1339

850MHZ.....$1359	950MHZ....$1459
900MHZ....$1419	
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Nvidia GeForce2 GTS 64MB DDR w/TV-out
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56K V.90 FAX/MODEM W/VOICE
16X VARIABLE DVD ROM
CREATIVE LABS SOUND BLASTER LIVE! VALUE
ALTEC LANSING ACS54, 4 SPEAKERS W/SUBWOOFER
Corel Office 2000: WordPerfect 9, QuattraPro 9, Corel Presentation 9, Trellix 2
19" .26 SVGA COLOR MONITOR PnP, 1600X1200

800MHZ $1599

850MHZ....$1629	
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1GHZ.....$1819	1.1GHZ.....$1949

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HARDWARE

MAG TECHNOLOGY 770FD

A Dynamite 17-Inch Display

Best Buy November 2000

WE'RE STILL AMAZED THAT SOME 17-INCH monitors actually sell for less than $300. What's even more surprising is the high quality of some of these under-$300 screens. An excellent example is Mag Technology U.S.A.'s new $269-estimated 770FD. Although it doesn't offer many frills, this monitor delivers solid performance at a bargain price.

The 770FD uses a Sony FD Trinitron flat-face tube for even focus across the screen. The display has a 16-inch viewable area and a 0.24mm stripe pitch. Using DisplayMate Technologies' DisplayMate test utility, we found 6.8-point text to be sharp and well-defined at a 1,024x768 resolution with an 85Hz refresh rate, and slight patterns on our moiré tests were easily corrected with the monitor's controls. At higher resolutions, the 6.8-point text was a bit more difficult to read, and the moiré patterns somewhat harder to correct without also softening the focus. The 770FD's highest setting is 1,280x1,024 with a 60Hz refresh rate, but a refresh rate this low can be hard on the eyes.

A front-mounted Jag wheel lets you easily access the onscreen controls. The onscreen menus include the usual color and geometric settings, as well as horizontal and vertical focus controls (which aren't available on many low-cost monitors). A dedicated button on the front of the monitor lets you toggle through Mag's proprietary e-Video settings, which optimize the image for video playback. The four e-Video settings are zoom picture (which enlarges the image by roughly 25 percent), vivid picture (increases the image's brightness), warm picture (adds a red tint to the image), and golden picture (adds a gold tint to the image).

Although you can probably find another 17-inch monitor for even less money, you might have a hard time finding one this good—or one that comes with a three-year warranty. Unless you need a monitor to display primarily at 1,280x1,024—and if so, you should be considering a 19-inch display anyway—the Mag Technology 770FD is an unusually good buy.

—David English

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Inexpensive; excellent image quality at 1,024x768; three-year warranty

Only a 60Hz refresh rate at highest resolution setting of 1,280x1,024

PRODUCT: Mag Technology 770FD
COMPANY: Mag Technology U.S.A. City of Industry, CA 800-510-0149, 626-709-1031 *www.maginnovision.com*
MFR. EST. PRICE: $269

ZDNet Price It!™ 33895
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

LEXMARK Z12 COLOR JETPRINTER

An Inkjet on an Impulse

WITH AN ESTIMATED PRICE OF $59.99, THE Z12 Color Jetprinter has the distinction of being the least expensive inkjet printer sold by Lexmark International. At this price, the 1,200x1,200-dpi printer could easily be an impulse purchase—and might even cause you to wonder if the old adage "You get what you pay for" still rings true.

The Z12 includes both USB and IEEE 1284 parallel-port connections, though neither cable is provided. Once we got a USB cable (about $15), we followed the illustrated setup guide and were up and running in minutes.

The printer uses separate black and three-color ink cartridges. (Replacement cartridges cost $28.99 each.) Only one cartridge, however, can be used at a time; the one that's not in use fits in a handy compartment located on the back of the printer. Consumers will further appreciate the Z12's quiet performance, compact size, helpful ink-level indicators, and 100-sheet-capacity paper tray.

The printer supports 300-, 600-, and 1,200-dpi resolutions, though it defaults to 600 dpi unless you manually change the settings. We were a bit disappointed with the text and color-photo output quality of the Z12 at the default resolution. Text wasn't completely smooth, and our test photo's color was muted. When we increased the resolution to 1,200 dpi, however, we noticed a dramatic improvement. Text was nearly laser-quality, and our test photo's colors were much more vibrant, although the image was still noticeably grainy.

At 1,200 dpi, black-text printing crawls along at approximately half a page per minute (about 18.5 minutes for a 10-page Word document), our four-page Adobe PageMaker newsletter required 27.5 minutes to print, and our 7.5x6-inch photo took 6 minutes and 49 seconds.

We wouldn't recommend using the Z12 to print business reports, presentations, or other documents that require a professional look. But for home users who have the occasional print job, the price can't be beat.

—Megan Loncto

★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Inexpensive; quiet; compact design

Very slow print speed; acceptable print quality only at the highest resolution; need to swap-out black ink cartridges

PRODUCT: Lexmark Z12 Color Jetprinter
COMPANY: Lexmark International Lexington, KY 888-539-6275, 859-232-2000 *www.lexmark.com*
MFR. EST PRICE: $59.99

ZDNet Price It!™ 33894
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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 116

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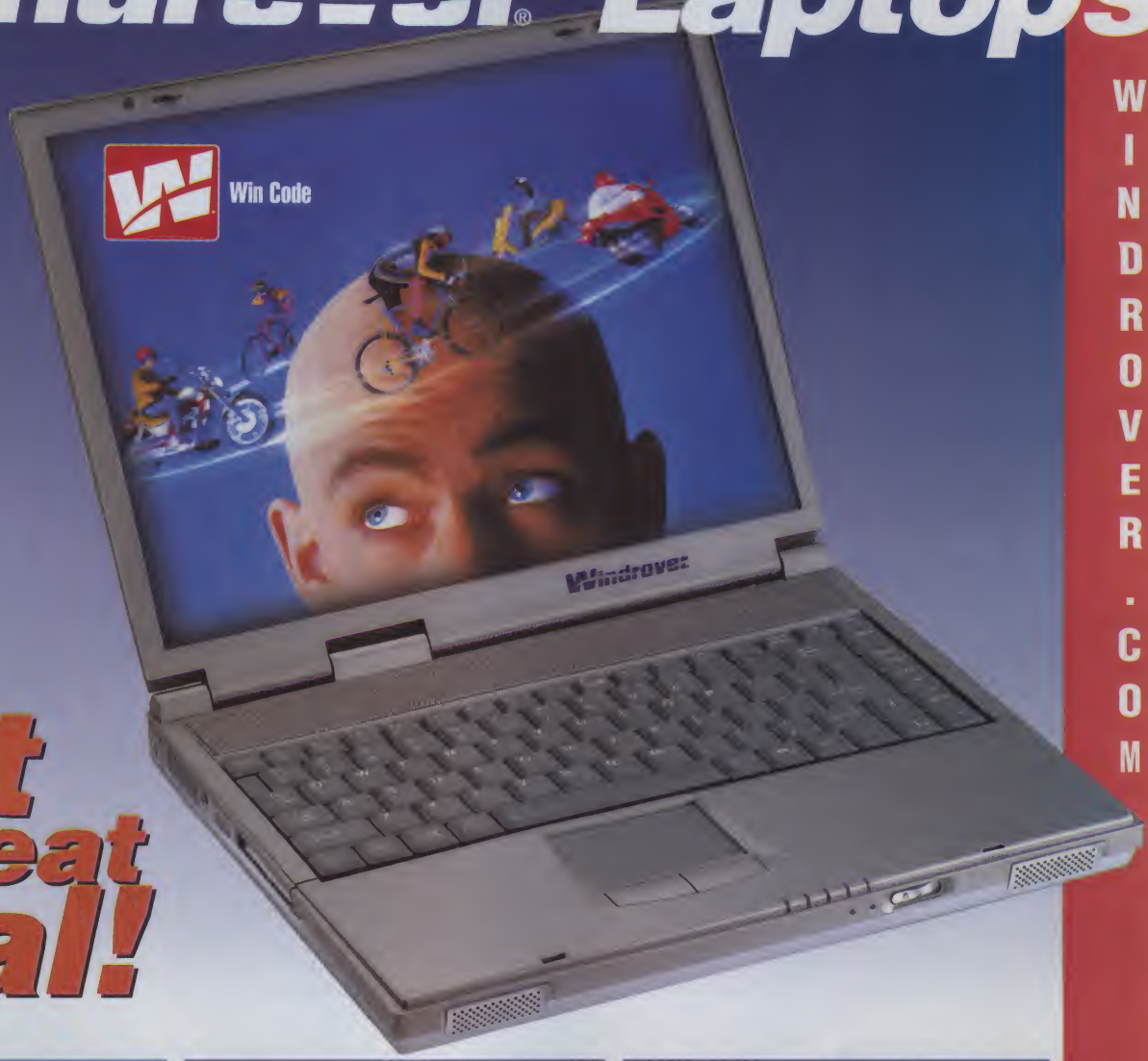

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- 7-Bay Mid-Tower Case

$1099 #098873 Lease $37.09/Mo.

Venture RTS T7

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- PCI Wavetable Integrated Sound
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$929 #C37996 Lease $31.31/Mo.

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- 15GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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MOBILE

GATEWAY SOLO 1150CL

A High-Fashion Model At a Knockoff Price

SHOPPING ON A LIMITED BUDGET HAS ALWAYS BEEN DISHEARTENING for notebook buyers. Until recently, systems with must-have features like fast processors and bright screens started at $2,000 and up, leaving cost-conscious shoppers with their faces pressed against the window at the local tech shop. Fortunately, those grim days are coming to an end.

Gateway's Solo 1150CL literally breaks the mold for entry-level notebooks. While performance isn't road-warrior-class, the Solo offers a good mix of features that make it a solid value at the low price of $1,399.

Your first glance at the curvy, contoured Solo provides striking proof that this notebook is not just another cookie-cutter budget box. With its rounded corners and surfaces, it bears more than a passing resemblance to Apple's much-ballyhooed iBook, and cool touches like the rubberized panels on the lid make it fun to carry. But don't let the sleek look fool you. The system measures a considerable 13.3 inches across and about 2 inches thick, and it weighs a hair over 7 pounds.

Squeezed inside that girth is a decent notebook, packing a 550MHz Celeron processor, 64MB of SDRAM, and a 6GB hard drive, in addition to a fixed floppy drive and 24x CD-ROM. Note that you can't swap in, say, a DVD-ROM or Zip drive. And you must remove a screw just to access the battery—not terribly convenient when you're at 35,000 feet and need to pop in a charged cell.

Most notebooks in this price range employ murky dual-scan screens, but the Solo packs a crisp, bright active-matrix display that's as good as any we've seen. At 12.1 inches, it isn't huge, but it's fine for most mobile-computing tasks. Resolution tops out at 800x600, so users who need to run high-end graphics and video software may need another notebook.

The Solo's legacy-free design follows a "less is more" approach. It has no parallel, serial, PS/2, or IR ports—only an SVGA port and two USB ports. If you have older peripherals, you'll need a USB converter or a different notebook. The Solo also has a pair of Type II PC Card slots, as well as headphone and microphone jacks. Unfortunately, the jacks are located on the unit's back, the least convenient place possible.

With these limitations, the Solo seems primarily destined for basic productivity apps rather than graphics-intensive tasks or gaming. The Solo delivered a decent score of 18 on our Business Winstone 99 tests. However, the 24x CD-ROM drive was slower than average, and the 128-bit Silicon Motion Lynx3DM graphics chip with 4MB of SGRAM couldn't complete the 3D WinMark 2000 suite, nor would it successfully run the three games we loaded.

Fortunately, the Solo makes up for some of these flaws with an easy-to-use keyboard and good audio. The comfortable, full-size keyboard features four programmable buttons for quick-launching an e-mail client, a Web browser, and other apps. The touch-pad pointing device is appreciably large, but it lacks the terrific scroll buttons we've seen on other Gateway notebooks. Meanwhile, the AC-Link audio processor pumps surprisingly loud and crisp sound through the Solo's stereo speakers. As might be expected, bass response was a bit lacking, but overall sound quality was superb.

The Solo 1150CL is among the first notebooks we've seen to ship with Windows Millennium Edition (Me), along with Microsoft Works 2000. The updated OS offers a few worthwhile amenities, including faster booting. The Solo took only about 40 seconds to power up and load Windows.

We could not complete our battery-life tests on the Solo 1150CL—possibly owing to an incompatibility with Windows Me. Because the battery is a lower-capacity NiMH cell, results probably wouldn't have been stellar. Gateway rates the battery life at roughly 2 hours and 15 minutes.

The Solo's warranty covers parts and labor for one year, and includes 24-hour toll-free phone support. Another $100 bumps the warranty to three years, well worth the investment. Gateway's Web site offers few customization options for the Solo, but it's easy to add peripherals at the time of purchase.

The Solo 1150CL requires a few compromises. Some users may not be ready for its legacy-free design, it certainly isn't small, and performance could be better. But given its extremely attractive price, the Solo is still a great value that should be just the ticket for cash-strapped shoppers and students. —*Rick Broida*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Low price; nice lines; great screen; good performance

Bulky; short battery life; weak graphics

SYSTEM: Gateway Solo 1150CL
COMPANY: Gateway
San Diego, CA
800-315-2536, 605-232-2000
www.gateway.com
AS TESTED: 550MHz Celeron; 64MB SDRAM; 6GB hard drive; 24x CD-ROM drive; Silicon Motion Lynx3DM graphics chip with 4MB SGRAM; 12.1-inch SVGA active-matrix LCD; AC-Link audio chip; V.90 modem; touch pad; Microsoft Windows Me; Works 2000
DIRECT PRICE: $1,399

ZDNet Price It!™ 33933

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MOBILE

SCEPTRE SOUNDX 7300

A Sporty, Affordable Racer Packed With Power

Best Buy November 2000

SCEPTRE'S SOUNDX 7300 IS THE MAZDA MIATA OF NOTEBOOKS. It's extremely compact, it performs well, and its good looks are likely to swivel a few heads. And like the Miata, the sporty $2,298 Soundx is surprisingly well-priced, given the performance it offers.

The first thing you'll notice is its compact size. Just under an inch thick, the Soundx 7300 weighs in at 4.1 pounds with the battery installed. But it doesn't *feel* like a compact notebook. With a full-size keyboard (for a notebook) and a 13.3-inch screen, the Soundx 7300 delivers all the comfort of a standard laptop. And thanks to its 600MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, and 6GB hard drive, it offers speedy performance.

However, if you want all the convenience of a standard notebook, you'll have to settle for a few compromises. One way the notebook's designers achieved such a slim design was to eliminate internal drive bays; only the hard drive is contained inside the notebook. A cable is used to connect the included floppy or CD-ROM drives, or the 8x DVD-ROM, which was included with our review unit. The $1,899 standard model of the Soundx 7300 comes with the 24x CD-ROM; you can substitute the DVD drive for $100 extra.

A better option for connecting drives is the Ultra Base, a $200 add-on to the standard model that employs a "slice" approach to add both the floppy and CD/DVD drives as well as a second battery to the bottom of the unit. Priced at approximately $200, the base increases the notebook's weight by 1.45 pounds, making it roughly the same size as a traditional notebook. The base also includes an S/PDIF digital audio output, an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port (which should prove popular with videophiles), and additional USB and PS/2 ports.

Even without these additions, the Soundx 7300 provides a fair number of connectivity options for a portable that borders on the subnotebook weight class. In addition to the external floppy/CD connector, it sports PS/2, serial, parallel, fast infrared, and USB ports. There's only a single Type II PC Card slot, but the built-in 56Kbps modem and 10/100 Ethernet port provide the functionality that most users would get from a second slot.

The unit we tested whipsawed through performance benchmarks, clocking in at an admirable 24.8 on the Business Winstone 99 test. The processor supports Intel's SpeedStep technology, which slows the notebook to 500MHz when it's running off the battery. It scored 22.3 in this mode.

Nevertheless, the notebook lasted 2 hours and 42 minutes on our BatteryMark test whether running at 500MHz or 600MHz. That's about an hour less than some other units we've tested, but not unusual for a thin notebook, whose batteries are often a little smaller due to size and weight considerations.

The 13.3-inch LCD is sharp and bright, providing SVGA 1,024x768 resolution and support for true color. Graphics come from an ATI Rage Mobility-M1 chip equipped with 8MB of memory. The ATI chip set is an excellent choice if you plan to use the Ultra Base's IEEE 1394 port for video editing, as it's well-supported by video-editing tools. The Soundx 7300's 3D WinMark score of 20.9 at 640x480 resolution is adequate for a notebook, although it can't compare to what you'd see from most desktop computers.

DVD playback was smooth, save one or two stutters over the entire course of viewing *The Princess Bride*. As you'd expect from a notebook called "Soundx," the audio subsystem is quite good by notebook standards, providing plenty of volume and clear sound. If you want to listen to MP3 music while you type, however, be aware that the speakers face up on the wrist rest, and the left speaker may be muffled by your palm.

The keyboard is comfortable, but it does have a slightly loose feel. The Synaptics touch pad that sits in the center of the spacious wrist rest has an unusual feature: buttons above and below the pad. The two sets perform identical functions and can't be configured as four discrete buttons.

The Soundx's only major downside is the omission of any bundled software other than the Mediamatics DVD player, so you may need to factor in the cost of an office suite. The unit also has a somewhat skimpy one-year parts-and-labor warranty.

Given the wear and tear heaped upon notebooks, consider the optional extension to a three-year warranty. Chances are, with the Soundx's flexible approach and solid performance, you'll want to use the notebook for years to come.

—*Denny Atkin*

★★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Ultrathin; stylish; zippy performance; nice price

Mediocre battery life; only one PC Card slot; no software

SYSTEM: Sceptre Soundx 7300

COMPANY: Sceptre Technologies
City of Industry, CA
800-788-2878
www.sceptre.com

AS TESTED: 600MHz Pentium III; 128MB SDRAM; 6GB hard drive; 8x DVD-ROM drive; ATI Rage Mobility-M1 graphics with 8MB VRAM; 13.3-inch SVGA display; Crystal 4281 audio chip; lithium-ion battery; one Type II PC Card slot; touch pad; integrated V.90 modem; integrated 10/100 Ethernet adapter; Ultra Base docking unit

DIRECT PRICE: $2,298

ZDNet Price It! 33934

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MOBILE

COMPAQ ARMADA E500S

Smart Sailing for Small Businesses

COMPAQ COMPUTER CORP. HAS PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE PROVIDING what small-business users want: performance at a good price, emphasizing productivity over frills. You won't find a DVD-ROM drive in the Compaq Armada E500S, for instance, but you'll find business-minded features as well as a few niceties that make computing easier and relatively frustration-free. At $2,499, however, the Armada may be on the upper end of most small-business owners' budgets.

In terms of components, the Armada includes choices that are below the top of the line but still offer more than enough performance for typical business needs. Specifically, the Armada is outfitted with a SpeedStep-enabled 600MHz Pentium III processor, 64MB of SDRAM, a 5.8GB hard drive, a 13.3-inch XGA screen, a 24x CD-ROM drive, and an ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics chip with 8MB of VRAM.

The unit has two hot-swappable bays supporting a wide variety of components—including up to three batteries for maximum untethered power—but comes with a floppy drive and CD-ROM in its standard configuration. If your budget permits, you can add an LS-120 or DVD-ROM drive. You can even opt for a "weight saver" module to lessen the notebook's poundage during your travels.

With all its features, the three-spindle unit weighs in at around 7 pounds, which is not out of character for an all-in-one system. It measures 1.6x12.4x10 inches (HWD).

With its middle-of-the-road approach, the Armada still achieved decent ratings on our benchmark tests. In performance mode at 600MHz, the Armada brought home a score of 20.3 on our Business Winstone 99 test; in battery-optimized mode, at 500MHz, the notebook managed a rating of 19.4. With these scores, the notebook should be up to most productivity applications. Those who work with more advanced programs such as desktop publishing apps or Adobe Photoshop, however, may wish to bolster performance by installing more memory.

The Armada displayed excellent battery life. Running at 500MHz in battery-optimized mode, it lasted 4 hours and 16 minutes on our BatteryMark 3.0 test. Operating full-bore in performance mode, the notebook persisted for 3 hours and 48 minutes. Both of these scores are above average among today's midrange notebooks.

Users who are comfortable with the Armada's level of performance certainly won't be disappointed with the rest of the unit, which provides many connectivity options and is comfortable to use. It supports USB as well as the usual complement of ports, including serial, parallel, headphone, microphone, and PS/2. The Armada also has dual Type II PC Card slots, an infrared interface, a TV-out port, and an integrated 56Kbps modem. For presentations, the notebook can be connected to a projector or monitor via the VGA port, although the 13.3-inch screen is bright enough for small audiences.

The keyboard is responsive and includes programmable application buttons, which are initially preset to launch content on the Armada information site (MyArmada), AltaVista, and e-mail. It also has the dedicated arrow keys and Page Up and Page Down keys that demanding users prefer. Two legs on the back edge of the notebook fold down to create a slight angle for better typing.

The touch pad is situated below the keyboard and is comfortable to use, with a large surface area that's slightly embedded so that it isn't prone to the accidental brush of your palm.

Speakers surround the touch pad and pump out rich, full sound with surprisingly deep bass response for a notebook. Volume controls are conveniently placed on the front edge of the system; however, users will find their palms sometimes block off the sound while typing.

As for software, the Armada comes with practically everything most businesses would need, including Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business, Norton AntiVirus, and Compaq Online Services. Compaq also goes the extra mile with the parts warranty, which lasts for three years, although the labor warranty is just one year.

Overall, the Armada E500S is a compelling, well-designed package for small businesses. Although the notebook is a bit pricey, you get a solid mix of components for the money.

—*Richard S. Shim*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Solid performance; flexible bays; outstanding battery life; good software

Somewhat expensive; one-year labor warranty

SYSTEM: Compaq Armada E500S
COMPANY: Compaq Computer Corp. Houston, TX; 800-345-1518 *www.compaq.com*
AS TESTED: 600MHz Pentium III; 64MB SDRAM; 5.8GB hard drive; 24x CD-ROM drive; ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics chip with 8MB of memory; 13.3-inch XGA active-matrix display; integrated 56Kbps modem; touch pad; Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business; additional software
MFR. EST. PRICE: $2,499

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MOBILE

FUJITSU LIFEBOOK I-4177

Easy on the Eyes, Easy on the Wallet

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A BUDGET NOTEBOOK could look so cool? The Fujitsu LifeBook i Series makes a smashing statement in sleek silver and gray, and comes ready to party with a DVD drive and a built-in port for a MiniDisc recorder. Although its small screen is a bit of a drawback, at $1,499 it's a lot of notebook for the money.

Like the Gateway Solo 1150CL also reviewed in this issue, the 6.6-pound LifeBook i Series resembles the Apple iBook in more ways than one. It's a midweight system with a fun, curvy case and a noticeable lack of legacy connectivity.

The first model in the series is the LifeBook i-4177, which is powered by a 500MHz Celeron engine and comes standard with 64MB of RAM and a 6GB hard drive. An external floppy drive with a USB connector is also included.

Don't let the Celeron's bargain-basement reputation scare you. This new and improved version dispenses with the dated 66MHz motherboard/RAM speed of its predecessors and sports a faster 100MHz bus, the same speed as Pentium II and III notebooks. This means that you'll see a more dramatic performance boost over earlier Celeron notebooks than the megahertz numbers alone would imply. Indeed, the LifeBook achieved an admirable CPUmark score of 42.5. Its Business Winstone 99 score of 17.6 is less impressive, but is probably explained by the amount of RAM that came with our unit. (It's expandable to 192MB.)

The internal 8x DVD-ROM drive is an unexpected frill in a notebook in this price range. You can watch movies on the road (though you'll want to spring for an extra battery), or even use the LifeBook as a home DVD player by connecting its S-Video output to a TV or VCR. DVD playback was flawless in our testing.

The rest of the video system, however, is less dazzling. The ATI Rage Mobility-P graphics chip has the potential to provide decent performance for 3D games (certainly a concern for many of the consumers this notebook targets), but it's saddled with a mere 4MB of VRAM. That means you'll want to stick to last year's games.

The screen, too, is a bit disappointing. At 12.1 inches and with a resolution of 800x600 with 256,000 colors, it seems a throwback to 1998. It is at least a crisp TFT active-matrix screen, rather than the DSTN displays seen on some budget laptops. And admittedly, it's not uncommon for 12.1-inch displays on notebooks in this price range to top out at 800x600.

You'll find no serial, parallel, or PS/2 ports here. Instead, the notebook is decked out with a pair of USB ports, a couple of Type II PC Card slots, and a 56Kbps modem. It also offers a surprising array of multimedia options that include the S-Video port, audio and microphone connectors, and an S/PDIF optical input/output port, good news for MiniDisc mavens who want to record MP3s without the quality loss normally found in digital-to-analog-to-digital transfers.

The notebook's 87-key keyboard has a comfortable feel, with excellent tactile feedback despite its slightly shallow 3mm stroke. The Alps touch pad is nicely placed, and while the silver buttons look a little cheesy, they work just fine. Below the touch pad are four programmable function buttons. A switch lets you configure these as one-touch launchers for your favorite applications or as CD audio controls, letting you listen to CDs with the notebook in suspend mode.

The LifeBook lasted 2 hours and 39 minutes on our BatteryMark 3.0 test, a decent, but certainly not exceptional, life span. Fujitsu includes a utility called PMSet that enables you to choose automatically adjusted screen-brightness levels for AC and battery power.

Fujitsu doesn't skimp on bundled applications with the unit. You'll find Microsoft Works, Quicken Basic 2000, LapLink 2000, McAfee ActiveShield, and Netscape Communicator included. The warranty, at one year, is a bit short, however.

The LifeBook i-4177 is a surprisingly powerful notebook for the price and, given the inclusion of DVD, provides great value. Spring for some extra RAM and an extended warranty, and no one would ever guess how little you paid for your notebook.

—*Denny Atkin*

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Good DVD playback; great price; decent performance
External floppy drive; underpowered graphics

SYSTEM: Fujitsu LifeBook i-4177
COMPANY: Fujitsu PC Corp. Santa Clara, CA 800-831-3183, 408-982-9500 *www.fujitsupc.com*
AS TESTED: 500MHz Celeron processor; 64MB 100MHz SDRAM; 6GB hard drive; 12.1-inch SVGA active-matrix LCD; 8x DVD-ROM drive; ATI Rage Mobility-P with 4MB of memory; Yamaha AC-HG audio; internal V.90 modem; touch pad; Microsoft Works; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: $1,499

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- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE 1394 Port & 1 Video-In Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2545**

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
256MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2945**

2893

Common Features

- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot which supports ZV-Port and Card Bus
- 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.8"w x 10.15"d x 1.49"h

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$2045**

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2345**

3593

Common Features

- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4"h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2145**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2395**

3593

Common Features

- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4"h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1695**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1895**

Options: LS-120 Drive • Iomega Zip Drive • Car Adapter • Port Replicator • Numeric Keypad • PCMCIA Cards (V90 Data/Fax, Ethernet 10/100 16-Bit, MPEG-II) • Please call for options availability, most options are notebook specific. **B2B Support:** 888-576-4742 **Leasing & Warranty:** Business leasing available on all ProStar systems. Lifetime toll-free technical support. One year parts and labor warranty. 30-day money back guarantee. 3 year warranty from Phillips Magnavox (Optional on every ProStar System). **Special Program:** Dealer/VAR, Government and Corporate pricing available. Call a ProStar representative for details. **GSA Contract:** GSA Contract # GS-35F-5084H **ProStar Computers, Inc.** 1128 Coiner Court, City of Industry, CA 91748 • Tel (626)854-3428 • Fax (626)854-3438 • Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30am-6:00pm, Sat, 9am-3pm (PST) • American Express, VISA and MasterCard Credit Cards Accepted – NO SURCHARGE.

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3153

Common Features

- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4" h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1845**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$2195**

3153

Common Features

- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4" h

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1595**

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$1895**

3493

Common Features

- 128KB Dn-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB Dn-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, or LS-120
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 USB Port & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Super Slim Notebook: 11.93"w x 9.05"d x 1.16"h

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1695**

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1845**

5150

Common Features

- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB Dn-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- AGP 4MB S3 Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Sound Effect
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- PCMCIA 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- NiMH Battery (Smart Lithium-Ion Battery opt.)
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 USB Port & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- A4 Size 86-Key Keyboard for Easy Typing
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Super Slim Notebook: 11"w x 9.4"d x 1.5"h

12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1445**

12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1645**

[1]2X Minimum, [2]10X Minimum, [3]Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less. Actual data speeds will vary *depending on line conditions.* [4]Total HD accessible capacity may vary depending on operating environment. ©2000 by ProStar Computer Inc. All rights reserved. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, SpeedStep and Celeron are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other companies and product names are trademarks of their respective companies. Dealer price is not subject to 30 days money back guarantee program. Opened software and shipping charges are non-refundable. 30-day money back guarantee does not include return freight or shipping and handling charge. Not responsible for photo or typographical errors. Price and terms subject to change without notice.

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MOBILE

SONY CLIÉ

Sony's Palm Packs Little Punch

THE STYLE-MEISTERS AT SONY HAVE PUT THEIR own slick spin on the Palm OS, yielding a new PDA called the CLIÉ (pronounced "clee-ay"). Chief among its innovations are a USB docking cradle, a Jog Dial navigator that enables one-handed maneuverability, and the addition of Sony's Memory Stick media.

But are these intriguing features enough to set the $400 PDA apart from compelling models already available from Palm and Handspring? It doesn't seem likely.

Like other Palm OS devices, the silvery CLIÉ delivers easy, versatile management of contacts, appointments, tasks, and memos. Its USB docking cradle makes it a snap to synchronize data with the Palm Desktop PIM or Microsoft Outlook; it also recharges the CLIÉ's lithium-ion battery. You can even recharge without the cradle, a definite plus for travelers.

The CLIÉ bears a vague resemblance to the Palm V, though it's narrower and a bit thicker. Surprisingly, it's also less attractive, housed in a boxy machine-shop design.

Its Jog Dial navigator, a side-mounted wheel/button that lets you launch applications and view records using one hand, is a great idea. But in actual use, it's somewhat impractical, often requiring too much scrolling to find desired items.

Sony includes software-based apps for viewing pictures and video clips. But the gray-scale screen makes all images hard to see, so the overall value is questionable. The one unequivocal perk is the tweaked address book, which lets you attach a thumbnail photo to any record.

The CLIÉ's real claim to fame is its Memory Stick expansion slot, which accommodates cards ranging from the included 8MB stick to a 64MB version. Unfortunately, you must transfer files and data stored on a Memory Stick to the CLIÉ's main 8MB of RAM to access them. This necessity considerably limits the technology's value.

Expected to sell for around $400, the CLIÉ is no bargain. A color version is due in 2001, and if it maintains the same svelte dimensions, it may be worth a look. But as it stands, this Palm OS device will probably have a tough time competing with established favorites from Palm and Handspring.

—*Rick Broida*

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
Supports Memory Stick; battery can be recharged without cradle
Value-added features all have limitations

PRODUCT: Sony CLIÉ
COMPANY: Sony Electronics
San Mateo, CA; 888-315-7669
www.sony.com/handheld
MFR. EST. PRICE: $399.99
ZDNet Price It!™ 33936
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

TAGRAM MAMBO X P300

Rip and Spin With Space to Spare

THANKS TO NAPSTER, IT'S EASY TO GET ALL THE free MP3 tunes you want. But loading them onto your portable player is a costly proposition, because removable memory is practically worth its weight in gold. Fortunately, Tagram's new Mambo X plays both audio CDs and MP3 files stored on CD-R discs, enabling you to carry a whopping 10 hours of music on a single low-cost disc.

At first glance, you may not be all that impressed with the $199.95 Mambo X, which looks just like a standard portable CD player. Its wireless remote and 45-second electronic shock-protection buffer are nice touches, but you can find those features on dozens of other, cheaper CD players. However, you'll soon change your tune when you insert a disc filled with MP3 music.

For our testing, we burned more than 175 typical-length songs—more than 600 minutes of music—onto a single CD-R disc that cost around a dollar. Playback on the Mambo X was flawless, and sound quality was more than adequate. While the Mambo X isn't as tiny or skip-proof as MP3-only portables are, it more than makes up for it in storage space.

However, it still has a few rough edges. Unlike other MP3 players, the Mambo X doesn't display song titles, and cycling through numbered tracks can be quite a chore when you have 175 to choose from. There's no bookmark or fast-forward feature, so forget using it for audio-book MP3s.

Worst of all, the Mambo X only reliably supports a maximum MP3 sampling rate of 128Kbps. While this is the most common bit rate in use, many MP3 fans prefer to use higher sampling rates to improve audio quality. (Tagram claims later production runs may support up to 320Kbps.)

Battery life is about 5 hours on a pair of alkaline AAs. The Mambo X also includes an AC adapter and can charge rechargeable batteries while plugged in. No software is included, so you'll need to use an app like MusicMatch Jukebox to create MP3 files.

Despite its quirks, the Mambo X fuses high capacity with low price. It seems likely that its CD-based approach will become a serious challenger to costly flash-RAM-based MP3 players.

—*Denny Atkin*

★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
Good sound; huge storage capacity
Limited compression-rate support; no song display

PRODUCT: Tagram Mambo X P300
COMPANY: Tagram
Fullerton, CA; 714-680-6336
www.mambox.com
DIRECT PRICE: $199.95
ZDNet Price It!™ 33932
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 134

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Small-form-factor model D9829T: Intel® Pentium® III processor 800EB MHz / Intel 815 chipset / 128 MB SDRAM / 10 GB HD / 24x max CD-ROM / Intel Direct 3D integrated video / 3Com® 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows® 2000/ Windows NT®

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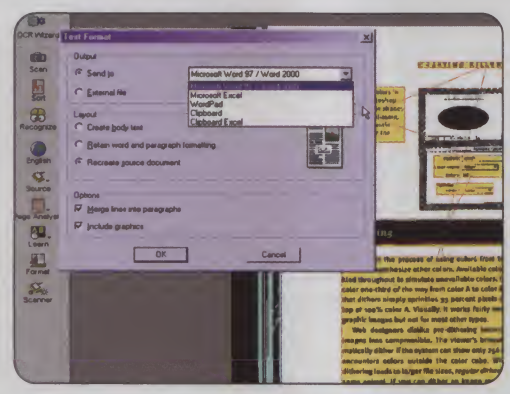
SOFTWARE

READIRIS PRO 6.0

Accurate and Easy OCR

OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION (OCR) IS ONE of those low-key utilities that you rarely think about until you need it. If you've ever had to do a lot of data entry, you know how valuable an OCR application such as IRIS's Readiris Pro 6.0 can be. This program recognizes 56 languages and five alphabets, scans in color, intelligently differentiates between images and text, and is remarkably savvy about correctly formatting tabular material.

By default, Readiris Pro starts up in wizard mode, letting you process a document from a file or your scanner. You can bypass the wizard and go directly to the scan button—one of the 10 available functions on the left toolbar. After scanning, click the Recognize button, and the program processes your test document. When Readiris finds an unrecognizable character, it shows it onscreen and lets you enter the correct character. Finally, the program loads the document into Microsoft Word. (You can also send the file to the clipboard, WordPad, or Microsoft Excel.)



Readiris's speed and accuracy are impressive. Our initial test page of laser-printed text had no errors and took less than a minute to process. We also tested several business cards, a quick reference card, a magazine page, and several pages of book text. In all but one case (a three-color table), Readiris was more than 99 percent accurate.

Readiris is smart about zoning pages automatically and can sort zones from the top down, so it deals effectively with columnar text. You can also define areas as text, tables, and graphics, and manually scan selected areas. Other settings are minimal. You can choose your language, run a brightness and de-speckle filter, and de-skew and rotate pages. One nice touch is the ability to scan and process multipage files. You can also move pages around in a document. (The program doesn't allow more than a single open file, however.)

It's not the most polished program, but Readiris Pro 6.0 is quick, simple, and accurate. SOHO users will find it well-worth the price. —*Susan Glinert*

★★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Easy to use; highly accurate

Few manual controls; can't handle tables with color backgrounds

PRODUCT: Readiris Pro 6.0
COMPANY: IRIS
Boca Raton, FL
800-447-4744, 561-395-7831
www.irisusa.com
REQUIRES: Pentium-class processor; 32MB RAM; 55MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0
MFR. EST. PRICE: $79

ZDNet Price It! 33892

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NORTON SYSTEMWORKS 2001

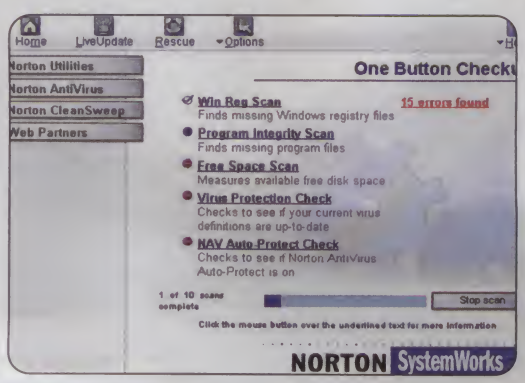
A Bonanza for Utility Fans

Best Buy November 2000

SYMANTEC CORP.'S NORTON SYSTEMWORKS 2001 is like old wine in new bottles. It has a few new features, and the interface has been simplified a bit, but basically it's the same collection of top-of-the-line utilities for which the company has become famous.

Norton SystemWorks 2001 combines Symantec's most popular Windows utility programs into one $59.95 package. In addition to the ubiquitous Norton AntiVirus, it comes with Norton CleanSweep, for safely removing unwanted files and programs from your hard drive, and Norton Utilities, for diagnosing and repairing system woes. (The $99.95 Professional Edition adds WinFax 10.0 Basic Edition and Norton Ghost, which duplicates entire hard drives.) Several new features have been added to the individual programs, along with better overall integration.

SystemWorks 2001 can help you even before you install it. Several of the utilities, such as Disk Doctor and WinDoctor, can be run directly from the program CD. This is a neat solution to the chicken-and-egg problem of how to use a program to fix your system when its problems are so bad that they interfere with program installation.



Once you've installed the program, a new Integrator screen provides easy access to every function of the separate programs. It also includes a One-Button Checkup feature that allows you to perform 10 separate scans at once. These scans diagnose and fix a variety of common problems, such as bad registry entries, hard drive problems, and inadequate free space on your hard drives.

The individual programs are all among the best in their respective categories, and the new versions feature several enhancements. Norton AntiVirus, for example, has improved e-mail checking to respond to the increase in this type of virus. Symantec's LiveUpdate feature helps ensure that you have the latest version of these programs, and the new Web Services feature allows Symantec to offer additional functions through the Internet.

The casual user may find the comprehensive nature of these utilities a bit daunting, because together they offer dozens of functions. But SystemWorks doesn't cost much more than Norton AntiVirus alone, so it's worth buying the entire package if you plan to use even one of the other utilities. —*Sheldon Leemon*

★★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Several top utilities at one low price

Number of functions can be overwhelming—or unnecessary—to casual users

PRODUCT: Norton SystemWorks 2001
COMPANY: Symantec Corp.
Cupertino, CA
800-441-7234, 408-253-9600
www.symantec.com
REQUIRES: For Standard Edition: 100MHz Pentium-class processor; 32MB RAM; 102MB hard drive space for typical install, 106MB for complete install; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT 4.0; Internet Explorer 4.01 or later for One-Button Checkup feature
MFR. EST. PRICE: $59.95 (Standard Edition); $99.95 (Professional Edition)

ZDNet Price It! 33886

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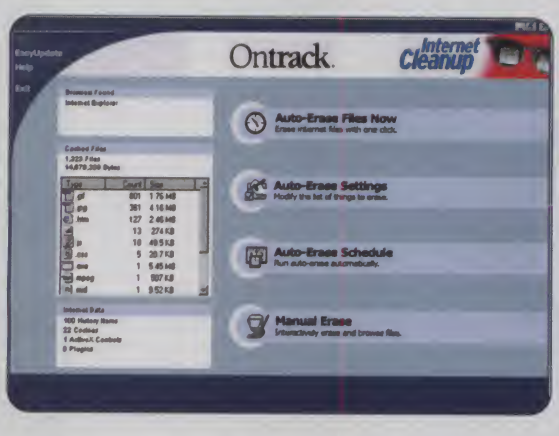
SOFTWARE

ONTRACK INTERNET CLEANUP

Cover Your Web Tracks

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

The only surefire way to prevent Web sites from tracking your online activities—and possibly selling that information to others—is to unplug your computer. Consider less drastic measures: Ontrack's powerful, easy-to-use Internet Cleanup data-privacy software effectively removes Internet tracking files from your hard drive and costs just $24.95.



Although most browsers allow you to block files that may compromise security, each time you visit a Web site information is downloaded and stored on your hard drive in files called "cookies." On the upside, cookies allow personalized sites such as MyYahoo.com to greet you by name and provide other customized information such as personal stock quotes, local weather updates, or daily horoscopes. On the downside, some sites use these cookies to collect personal information and sell it to advertisers, who may then send you targeted ads or even unsolicited e-mails. Files that pose the biggest security risks contain data such as password and registration information, items in your shopping cart, and various preference settings.

Internet Cleanup's simple menu interface allows you to permanently delete cookies and other potentially compromising files easily. By selecting Auto Erase, you can automatically locate and erase cookies, cache files, plug-ins, history files (which contain the addresses of sites you've visited), and ActiveX controls (interactive applications that may contain malicious content). Although it is possible to set your browser to limit maximum cache-file storage capacity and to periodically wipe out history files, Internet Cleanup lets you automatically clear such files on system startup, shutdown, browser exit, or a set schedule. Apart from protecting your privacy, this can also free up a lot of disk space.

So inexperienced users don't accidentally erase important files, you can also select Manual Erase mode to interactively erase and browse files. A detailed list of the files in each specified category will appear, along with icons indicating whether or not they are considered potentially important. Green icons give the go-ahead to shred; yellow suggests caution. Heed this advice, and Internet Cleanup will keep your privacy on the right track.

—*Avital Fryman*

*(Ontrack Data International; $24.95; **www.ontrack.com**)*

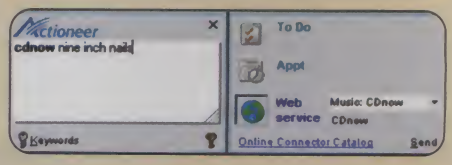
ACTIONEER 3.5 SMART PORTAL

Simplify Your Searches

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

No time to browse? Actioneer 3.5 Smart Portal can help you get in and get out with just what you want. A combination Web-based service and desktop applet, Actioneer uses a keyword system to cut to the chase, quickly searching sites for a stock quote, movie listing, book, or just about anything you choose.

To start using Actioneer Smart Portal, you must first download the free applet. During installation you choose whether to use Actioneer with only Web sites or with desktop-based personal information managers as well, and then you choose the Web services. The heart of Actioneer Smart Portal is its "Online Connectors" to these Web services; this version includes connectors to more than 150 services, such as Amazon.com, eBay, and CNN.com.



A 10-minute tutorial walks you through using the service, but you probably won't need it. Just click on the Actioneer Smart Portal icon in your system tray, enter an "action message" in plain English, and you get the exact page you're after. For example, we typed in the phrase "find book Potter," and Actioneer took us directly to the Amazon.com search-results page with *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* right at the top—all in a matter of seconds.

Using Actioneer to interface with Microsoft Outlook, Lotus Notes, or the Palm Desktop is just as easy. It detects keywords such as "tomorrow" and automatically enters meetings and tasks. And the best part about Actioneer's keyword system is that it's fully customizable.

If you think time is money, you'll appreciate Actioneer 3.5 Smart Portal. It's a nifty service that can cut down the amount of time you spend searching on the Web and on your desktop. Better yet, it's free.

—*Richard Douek*

*(Actioneer; free; **www.actioneer.com**)*

WEB SERVICE

FILEPOOL

Easy E-Mail Attachments

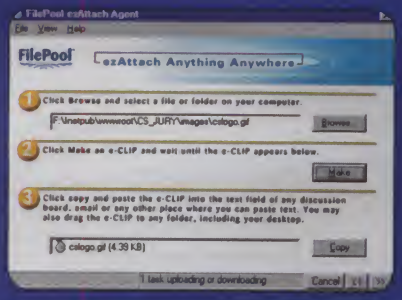
★★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

Best Buy November 2000

More than just messaging, e-mail has become a convenient way to transfer files between co-workers and friends. But anyone who routinely sends e-mail attachments knows that very large files often get blocked, and others can get corrupted en route. FilePool has a solution.

This Web service combines online file storage with a unique 32-character digital signature that you distribute within your e-mail messages, instant messages, Web pages, or documents. Instead of an e-mail attachment, your recipients get a coded e-Clip that they click on to download the file from FilePool's site.

Unlike Internet storage services such as i-drive.com, which first require you to log in to their sites, FilePool's embedded e-Clip link automatically provides recipients with one-click access to the associated files. You create e-Clips with the easy-to-use (and aptly named) ezAttach applet. You can work live on the FilePool site, or offline using the downloadable ezAttach agent. Your file is uploaded into the "pool" and can be retrieved with your unique e-Clip key—derived from the content of the file, rather than a filename and path—regardless of where in FilePool's system it is stored.



FilePool guarantees permanent storage of your files on its distributed system. You can save any type of file, from contact-management lists to photos. Because the e-Clip is unique to the content of the file, it will not work if the file is ever corrupted or changed. If you paste an e-Clip into a program that doesn't display links (such as Notepad), you will need to copy the e-Clip into a browser URL line to begin the download process. And be careful not to lose your e-Clip, because you can't retrieve the file from FilePool's site without it.

In short, FilePool gives users a simple and secure way to send file attachments without worrying about e-mail server file-size limits or file corruption.

—*Jay Munro*

*(FilePool; free; **www.filepool.com**)*

ZDNet Price It!™

	code
Actioneer 3.5 Smart Portal	33880
FilePool	33887
Ontrack Internet Cleanup	33882

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OCTOPUS.COM

WEB SERVICES

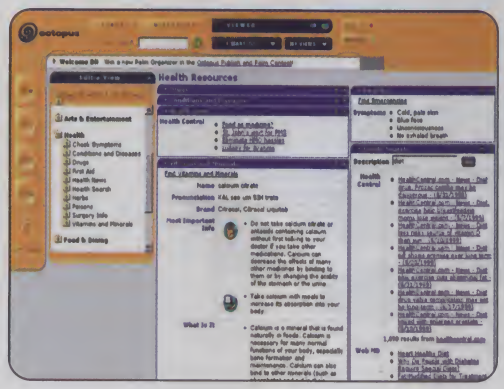
Grab the Web With Eight Arms

Best Buy November 2000

TODAY'S HIGH-POWERED WEB-PORTAL SITES have grown far beyond their humble origins as search engines. In addition to providing a wide variety of links to online services, many now offer chat rooms, auctions, personal ads, e-mail, and even address books and calendars.

Faced with the challenge of making such complex offerings easier to use, many portals now offer users the ability to save favorite links on a custom Web page. Octopus.com takes this approach one step further by letting you create multipage personal portals that contain both Octopus links and content culled from any other site on the Web.

Octopus offers a competitive and expanding selection of built-in links that let you shop, search the Web, read news, check e-mail, send electronic greetings, and perform many other common tasks. Adding them to a personal portal Web page, which Octopus calls a "view," is as simple as dragging items from a list. You can position links and services anywhere on the page in any combination, or roll them up into space-saving banners with a single click. The flexible, straightforward interface makes it easy to organize the contents of each view along themes such as investment news, shopping, or travel services.



Octopus also lets you enhance views by manually entering your own HTML code, images, or links, and by inserting all or part of any other Web page into a view. Best of all is the Octopus Backpack feature, which adds a button to your Web browser that makes it easy to transfer content from your current browser page to a new or existing Octopus view.

The service even provides a library of prebuilt views designed for common tasks such as finding movie showtimes or searching for a job. You can also upload views you create into a public area, where they can be accessed by anyone else logged into the system.

Our only major complaint with Octopus was its poky performance when running over a 56Kbps modem connection. But with a faster connection, it becomes one of the most powerful and flexible tools we've seen for accessing information on the Web.

—Don Labriola

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Flexible, easy-to-use tool for creating personalized multipage Web portals

Slow to load over a dial-up connection

SERVICE: Octopus.com
COMPANY: Octopus.com
Palo Alto, CA; 650-213-5700
octopus.com
REQUIRES: 133MHz Pentium-compatible processor; 64MB RAM; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0; Java-enabled browser (Netscape Navigator 4.x or later, or Internet Explorer 4.x or later with latest Java Virtual Machine update)
PRICE: Free

ZDNet Price It! 33890

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

ZAPLET

Cut Down on In-Box Clutter

beta

IF YOU'RE LIKE THE REST OF THE E-GENERATION, you probably use e-mail for group collaboration on setting up appointments, scheduling get-togethers, and other things. FireDrop's Zaplet Web service (currently in public beta) can help you reduce in-box clutter and eliminate long e-mail threads by letting you collaborate with others via e-mail using a single Zaplet message.

You choose a Zaplet type and create messages at FireDrop's site. The service then sends it out, automatically compiling and updating all responses within a single message. For example, an Invitation Zaplet lets you arrange a gathering with a large group of people. As invitees reply, responses are consolidated in a Java-based Zaplet within one e-mail, which remains in each person's in-box. When you open the Zaplet, you have the latest status for everyone invited. Or if you prefer, the service can notify you each time an update occurs.

The site offers more than 50 different kinds of Zaplets for activities such as sharing pictures, building phone lists, or planning a wedding. More business-oriented Zaplets let you schedule interviews, track vacations, brainstorm ideas, or create polls and compile responses.

Zaplets work with HTML-capable e-mail clients, such as Hotmail, Microsoft Outlook, or Yahoo Mail. If you use a client that doesn't support HTML e-mail features—such as AOL, for example—you'll get a message with a link to a page on the Zaplet site instead.

You don't need to sign up to use the free Zaplet service, but registered users get perks such as a personal address book, a message archive, and a Zaplet manager. Your address book can automatically save e-mail addresses from sent Zaplets for future use, and the MyZaplets archive stores all your Zaplets, letting you check the status on Zaplets even if you deleted them from your mailbox. The Zaplet manager lets you add notices and reminders to previously sent Zaplets or cut off further replies to your Zaplets.

If you're doing any kind of online collaboration, you'll want to give Zaplet a try. It offers an easy-to-use and practical alternative to static e-mail. Your in-box will thank you.

—Jay Munro

★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Simplifies group e-mails; one message continually tracks all replies

Can be slow over a dial-up Internet connection

SERVICE: Zaplet
COMPANY: FireDrop
Redwood Shores, CA
650-620-2900
www.firedrop.com
REQUIRES: Windows 95, 98, or NT, or Mac OS 8.6 or later; Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.01 Service Pack 2 or later, or Netscape Navigator 4.x or later
PRICE: Free

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GAMES

DEUS EX

A New-Age Conspiracy

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

In the new millennium, society is ravaged by terrorism, economic upheaval, and a deadly virus. Or so posits Deus Ex, a role-playing adventure that borrows the best elements from games like Thief, Rogue Spear, and System Shock 2.

You're cast as a nanotechnology-enhanced antiterrorist agent who's out to stop the deadly global conspiracy responsible for the world's ills. You specialize in—and are always working to enhance—skills such as hacking, lock-picking, weapons use, and even swimming. You can't be a jack-of-all-trades, however, so you'll have to decide which specialties will serve you best.

Where other interactive adventures put you in the role of the lone hero, Deus Ex makes you feel like part of a real-world operation. That's largely due to the extensive amount of interaction with nonplayer characters, who not only guide and assist you, but also require you to make choices that can affect the game's outcome.

A typical mission is a mélange of sneaking around to avoid detection, shooting at everything that moves, and finding your way to the required destination. Add to that the role-playing elements that force you to make strategic decisions about your characters, and Deus Ex will have you totally captivated.

Particularly amazing is the game's constantly unfolding plot, which would be right at home in an episode of "The X-Files." The best adventure games are those that keep you guessing, and while Deus Ex lacks the pins-and-needles punch of System Shock 2, it's one of the best efforts to come along since. **—Rick Broida**

(Eidos Interactive; $49.95; ***www.eidosinteractive.com****)*

BREAKNECK

A Long Day At the Races

★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

If you've spent any time in a video arcade, you've probably pumped some quarters into those noisy, colorful racing games—the ones that let you drive like a maniac without worrying about insurance premiums, speeding tickets, or trips to the emergency room. Such is the appeal of SouthPeak Interactive's BreakNeck, an arcade-style racing game in the truest sense.

Expert mode is BreakNeck's meat and potatoes, whereas Arcade mode lets you jump in and start racing right away. You can choose from dozens of vehicles, ranging from fictional speedsters to a city bus to a go-cart. Alas, one car handles like another, and all seem to be propelled by rockets.

BreakNeck serves up a whopping 24 tracks, each drivable in reverse or mirrored, and with or without weather effects. Each one is beautifully landscaped and meticulously detailed. Indeed, BreakNeck's crisp and colorful graphics are its top asset.

And maybe its only asset. While Arcade mode is fun for a while, Expert mode is a mess due to its incomprehensible interface. You have to slog through a sea of screens, each more confusing than the last, simply to get to a race. It's hard to believe that an interface could actually ruin a game, but that's the case here.

The sad part is that Expert mode gives you an amazing array of vehicle and race options: careers, duels, weapons aplenty—something for everyone. But where BreakNeck is concerned, getting there is not nearly half the fun. **—R.B.**

(SouthPeak Interactive; $29.95; ***www.southpeak.com****)*

EARTH 2150

No Stopping the Clock

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

Real-time strategy (RTS) fans looking for a 3D RTS game as challenging as it is beautiful should seek out Earth 2150. Created by 2-year-old German developer Topware Interactive, the game offers 70 intense, time-sensitive missions imbued with some of the most incredible-looking 3D effects and terrain ever seen in the genre.

The background is a bleak futuristic tale in which Earth is controlled by two warring superpowers—the Eurasian Dynasty and United Civilized States—while the moon is ruled by the Lunar Corporation, a small but technologically superior organization founded by a group of expatriate colonists. Scientists have discovered that several nuclear weapons used in the last war have altered the Earth's orbit, putting the planet (and its moon) on a collision course with the sun. The three factions have 180 days to evacuate to Mars, but only enough resources remain for one group to get away.

Earth 2150's single-play mode lets you play as one of the three forces. The game takes on a different look for each scenario, but the goal remains essentially the same: to construct, manage, and protect your bases while gathering enough resources and credits to build your transport before time runs out. Multiplayer mode also offers six game variations using LAN, Internet, or modem-to-modem connections.

The game's graphics are simply terrific, with sensational weather effects and marvelously detailed structures and units. Sound quality is disappointing, though, and navigating the interface definitely takes practice. Those willing to learn its subtleties, however, will find Earth 2150 to be a complex and rewarding treat.

(Mattel Interactive; $39.95; ***www.earth2150.com****)* **—Steve Schwartz**

GROUND CONTROL

Taking the High Ground

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

Sierra Studios' Ground Control breaks new strategy-gaming ground by dispensing with the traditional harvest/build/attack routine and adding a gorgeous 3D environment.

The plot initially seems like your basic good-versus-evil battle for control of a planetary surface. Over the course of the game's 30 missions, you'll play both sides: the galactic megafirm Crayven Corporation, and the Order of the New Dawn, a theocratic cult. As the plot unfolds, though, you'll discover there's more going on than just a land grab.

Ground Control does away with predrawn, top-down battlefields and units, and places its battles in a full 3D environment with stunning Hollywood-style effects. The camera control is extremely flexible—letting you zoom in and out on the action—but it takes some getting used to, especially in battle. Terrain also matters. A high vantage point is a strike in your favor, and you can hide behind hills.

Before starting a mission, you decide what kinds of units to bring (aerial, infantry, armor, and artillery) and how to equip them. Units gain experience over missions, so they have real value; you won't want to make wanton sacrifices.

The game's only serious flaw is its lack of in-mission saves. With some battles taking an hour or more to play, having to replay them can be annoying. Speed controls would also be appreciated, as would a skirmish mode.

Still, with its strong single-player game, a join-in-at-any-time Internet mode, and dazzling effects, Ground Control belongs in the arsenal of any strategy game fan. **—Denny Atkin**

(Sierra Studios; $49.95; www.sierrastudios.com)

ZDNet Price It!™

	code
BreakNeck	33888
Deus Ex	33879
Earth 2150	33885
Ground Control	33889

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

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The Top 100 Products of 2000

Choosing the Top 100 computer products, services, and technologies is like picking the best views through a kaleidoscope: It's difficult to do, and there's something new at every turn. Still, the editors at *Computer Shopper* have once again proven themselves up to the task, casting a collective, critical eye over the past year to select the finest desktop and notebook systems, mobile products, software, games, online services, and new technologies.

Although things got off to a rather ominous start with the Y2K scare, 2000 saw plenty of innovations in the computer industry. The big news in desktops was the heated rivalry between AMD and Intel, which kept chip prices down while pushing clock speeds past the 1GHz mark. New milestones were also reached in 3D-graphics acceleration and broadband access, while the Web continued to chart new ground in e-commerce and communications—as witnessed by the first-time inclusion of a Web Services category in this year's Top 100 list.

Also new is a short but bittersweet take on the year's five worst offerings by industry curmudgeon John C. Dvorak. You'll even find several forward-looking glimpses at upcoming products and technologies that are already vying for a place on our 2001 Top 100 list.

Whether you're shopping for a high-performance notebook, a new monitor, or a high-speed racing simulation, you'll want to check out our editors' choices before clicking that Buy button on your browser. Also, feel free to let us know if you agree with our picks, or if we missed any of your favorites, by dropping us an e-mail at ***cs_feedback@zdnet.com.***

TOP 100

Desktop Systems

With the arrival of CPUs faster than 1GHz, higher-capacity and faster hard drives, and graphics cards that render textures at 1.6 gigatexels per second, desktop systems have truly reached workstation status.

Technological advances have increased the speed of the system bus, hard drive interface, and RAM, boosting performance even further. Meanwhile, fierce competition between AMD and Intel has created bargains at nearly every price point. Moreover, depending on a PC's target audience, you'll have the option of equipping your system with Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows Me, even Linux.

ABS Performance Alpha

The $1,839 **Dell Dimension 4100** strikes an intricate balance between performance and cost with its smart choice of components, such as an 800MHz Pentium III, 128MB of 133MHz SDRAM, and a superfast nVidia GeForce2 GTS graphics processor. The system's bedrock foundation is its Intel 815E chip set, which supports a 133MHz front-side bus, the Ultra ATA/100 interface, and 4x AGP graphics.

If you think you can't afford a 1GHz system, think again. At $2,059, the **AS9800** from Atlas Micro Logistics is an incredible bargain. In addition to its 1GHz AMD Athlon, it features 128MB of RAM, a 40GB hard drive, a 10x DVD-ROM drive, and Guillemot's 3D Prophet DVI GeForce graphics card with 32MB of DDR memory, as well as TV and DVI outputs.

Systemax's **PJM-A7 Excite PC** is a fully loaded, 800MHz AMD Athlon-based system that gives you the most for your money. Its $2,025 price buys you 128MB of SDRAM, a Creative Labs Annihilator Pro 2 graphics card with 64MB of DDR SDRAM, a 19-inch monitor, a five-piece speaker system, a 12x DVD drive, and an 8x CD-RW drive. In addition to pedigree components, it also comes with your choice of one of four Microsoft Lifestyle Software bundles.

For a superior multimedia machine, check out the $2,019 **Performance Alpha** from ABS Computer Technologies. Along with a 733MHz Pentium III, a 30GB hard drive, and 256MB of SDRAM, you'll find a 10x DVD-ROM drive, an 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive, and a Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 five-piece speaker system. Just try not to disturb the neighbors.

Compaq Presario EZ2200

Another multimedia powerhouse is Sony's 700MHz Pentium III-based **VAIO PCV-L640 Slimtop LCD Computer.** The razor-sharp 15-inch LCD has built-in Harman Kardon speakers for a crystal-clear, in-your-face audio experience. Add to that a 4x CD-RW drive, an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface for connecting digital camcorders, and a bevy of video- and audio-editing programs, and at $2,599, the VAIO becomes a great introduction to digital video.

What does $1,149 buy in a desktop these days? Judging by Systemax's **PJM-T733 Excite PC,** plenty. In addition to a 733MHz Pentium III, it features 128MB of 133MHz SDRAM, a 20GB hard drive, a 10x DVD-ROM drive, and a 17-inch monitor.

Students in search of an affordable desktop should study up on the $1,299 **ABS Performance 3.** Its 667MHz Pentium III, 20.5GB hard drive, and Altec Lansing ACS45.2 speaker system make it ideal for MP3 files and late-night cramming. There's even a DVD-ROM drive for catching up on your favorite movies. Most important, you might have money left over for next year's tuition.

The **Compaq Presario EZ2200** might look more like a kitchen appliance than a PC, but

Desktop Systems

- ABS Performance Alpha
- ABS Performance 3
- Atlas Micro AS9800
- Compaq Presario EZ2200
- Dell Dimension 4100
- HP e-Vectra P2024T
- IBM NetVista X40i
- Sony VAIO PCV-L640 Slimtop LCD Computer
- Systemax PJM-A7 Excite PC
- Systemax PJM-T733 Excite PC

Upcoming

Dynamic Duo

How does Intel trump its own Pentium III and 820 chip set? By serving up a double technology boost with the **Pentium 4** and the **850** chip set. Systems that use this combo can provide a 400MHz system bus (three times faster than Pentium III systems), support for dual RDRAM memory channels (for a combined 3.2GB/sec throughput), four USB ports (two times more bandwidth), and six channels of AC97 surround sound.

For additional product information, see p. 160.

its art-deco design and Baja Blue case hide a sophisticated desktop system with both a 40x CD-ROM drive and a 4x/2x/24x CD-RW drive. The $1,198 price includes a 17-inch monitor, 17GB hard drive, and JBL Pro speaker system. Factor in the 500MHz Celeron and 64MB of SDRAM, and you have a highly capable system.

If you could imagine an all-in-one desktop created by the ThinkPad design team, you'd probably come up with IBM's $2,099 **NetVista X40i,** a sleek, black desktop that's both stylish and ergonomic. A 600MHz Pentium III, 128MB of RAM, a 15GB hard drive, a 6x DVD-ROM drive, and a floppy drive are cleverly integrated into the base of the 15-inch LCD. You add peripherals via the seven USB ports on the keyboard and monitor.

At $1,149 (without monitor), Hewlett-Packard Co.'s business-oriented **e-Vectra P2024T** won't bust your departmental budget, yet it has a fast 733MHz Pentium III, 128MB of SDRAM, a 24x CD-ROM drive, a 10/100Mbps network card, a modest 8.5GB hard drive, and an Intel 810E graphics engine. It comes powered by Windows 2000. If your business doesn't require a large hard drive or dedicated graphics adapter, why pay extra for them? ▼

Dell Dimension 4100

TOP 100

Notebooks

As today's workforce spends more time on the road, businesses are increasingly choosing notebooks as the best all-around computing solution.

Notebook manufacturers have responded in kind by narrowing the performance gap between portables and desktops. The result: Mini-notebooks are more powerful than ever, and even low-cost systems demand relatively few compromises.

Although the **Gateway Solo 9300CX** weighs a hefty 8.5 pounds and costs $3,585, it features a massive 15.7-inch screen with a 1,280x1,024 native resolution and offers true desktop-replacement performance. Revel in its 750MHz Pentium III, 128MB of SDRAM, 8x DVD-ROM drive, LS-120 SuperDisk drive, and 18GB hard drive, and you may never want to return to the office.

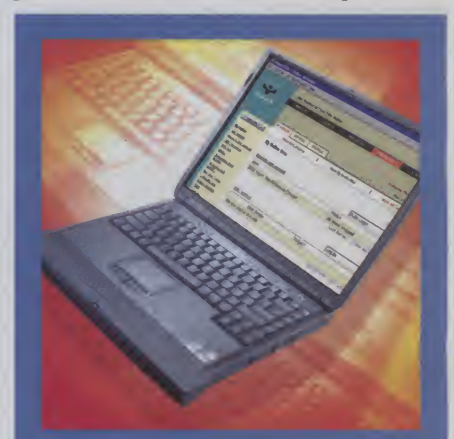
Sometimes a notebook can be used for more than just work. Dell's $3,477 **Inspiron 5000e** has a 15-inch screen with a 1,400x1,050 resolution that is ideal for watching wide-screen movies or playing games. For more traditional types of work, this 7.54-pound notebook is equally roadworthy: It features a 750MHz Pentium III, 128MB of RAM, a 30GB hard drive, and an 8x DVD-ROM drive.

The **Systemax SW15-T650** might look a bit familiar. That's because the same OEM that manufactures the Systemax unit also produces notebooks for Dell, Sceptre, and Windrover. The difference is the Systemax notebook is less expensive. The $2,499 model features a 650MHz Pentium III, a 15-inch XGA screen, a 6x DVD-ROM drive, an LS-120 SuperDisk drive, and an 18GB hard drive.

Notebooks

- Acer TravelMate 602TER
- Compaq Armada M300
- Compaq Notebook 100
- Dell Inspiron 3800
- Dell Inspiron 5000e
- Dell Latitude LS H400ST
- Gateway Solo 9300CX
- IBM ThinkPad 240X Model 2609-61U
- Sony VAIO PCG-XG29
- Systemax SW15-T650

Who says you can't pack a video studio into a travel-friendly, 6-pound notebook? Sony's $3,599 **VAIO PCG-XG29** does just that. The notebook's 750MHz Pentium III, 14.1-inch XGA screen, 128MB of RAM, and 18.1GB hard drive are complemented by a built-in IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port and a comprehensive bundle of easy-to-use video-editing programs.



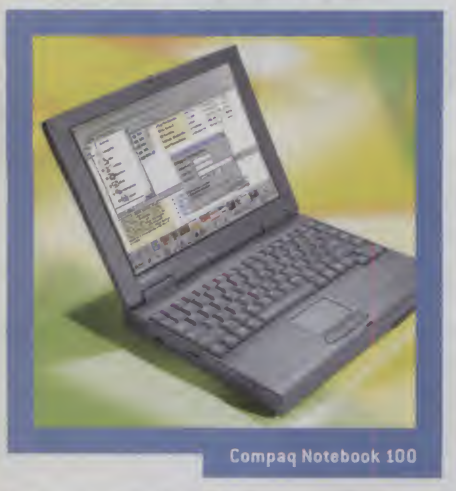
Gateway Solo 9300CX

Acer America Corp.'s $2,499 **TravelMate 602TER** *is a great example* of a mini-notebook that behaves like its full-size brethren. The unit weighs a moderate 5.25 pounds, yet features a 650MHz Pentium III, a 13.3-inch XGA screen, 128MB of RAM, and a keyboard just 5 percent shy of full size. It also has a 4x/4x/20x CD-RW drive. A USB-interface floppy drive is a $99 option.

If you want a solid notebook but you don't want to pay an arm and a

TOP 100

Notebooks


Compaq Notebook 100

leg for it, Dell's $1,717 **Inspiron 3800** packs a lot into an inexpensive package. Under the hood, you'll find a 500MHz Celeron with support for a 100MHz front-side bus, 64MB of RAM, a 14.1-inch XGA display, and a 6GB hard drive. For a change of pace, the case comes in Tahoe blue, midnight gray, or forest green.

We were duly impressed with Compaq's price-defying **Notebook 100.** Though configurations start at $999, the more practical $1,299 model comes with a 12.1-inch SVGA screen, a 475MHz AMD K6-2 processor, 64MB of RAM, a 5GB hard drive, and an integrated 56Kbps modem. Even with the built-in floppy drive and 24x CD-ROM drive, the notebook weighs a not-too-hefty 6.7 pounds.

The $2,899 **Compaq Armada M300** is an ultraportable 3.4-pound mini-notebook that features a stylish, svelte design. Despite its minuscule proportions, it packs a wallop with its 600MHz Pentium III, 12.1-inch SVGA screen, and 12GB hard drive. An optional 2.5-pound Mobile Expansion Unit adds two drive bays, includes a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive, and doubles as a port replicator.

There's a lot to like about Dell's $2,402 **Latitude LS H400ST**—including its compact 3.5-pound design, comfortable keyboard, and generous three-year warranty with next-business-day onsite service. The notebook is powered by a 500MHz Pentium III processor and 128MB of SDRAM, and includes a 12.1-inch SVGA screen and a 6GB hard drive. Spend another $70, and you can bump up the hard drive to 12GB.

The $2,299 **IBM ThinkPad 240X Model 2609-61U**—the successor to the lightweight ThinkPad 560—is designed for users who demand extreme portability. Despite its scant 3.2-pound weight and compact size, the 240X features a 500MHz Pentium III, 128MB of SDRAM, a 12GB hard drive, and a nearly full-size keyboard. Plus, it provides nearly 4 hours of uninterrupted battery life. ▼

IBM ThinkPad 240X Model 2609-61U

Mobile Products

Our love for gadgets is best exemplified by our inability to leave home without our electronic lifelines and toys. So why fight it? Here are our favorite devices to keep you in touch and entertained—anywhere, anytime.

Borrowing a leaf from Apple Computer's book on product design, the $149 **Palm m100** combines stylish case colors with an affordable price. Although the 4.4-ounce PDA comes in basic black, five different color snap-on faceplates are available for $19.95 each. The m100's screen is roughly three-quarters the size of those of previous Palms, and you can view the clock/calendar with the push of a button—even when the unit is powered off.

Giving Palm some healthy competition is Handspring's **Visor Deluxe.** Priced at $249, this Palm-compatible device's most innovative feature is the Springboard expansion slot, which promises to transform the Visor into a GPS receiver, MP3 player, voice recorder, cellular phone, wireless PDA, and more. Think of the 8MB Visor Deluxe as a Palm IIIx on steroids.

Palm m100

Mobile Products

- Boxlight XD-9m
- Compaq iPaq H3650
- Creative Nomad II MG
- Handspring Visor Deluxe
- IBM Microdrive
- Motorola Timeport P8167
- Palm m100
- Sony VPL-CS1 SuperLite LCD Projector
- Vindigo

Motorola Timeport P8167

Of the first three Pocket PCs to come to market, Compaq's $499 **iPaq H3650** may be the most innovative. Its optional slide-on Expansion Packs add PC Card and CompactFlash expansion slots; but you can leave your Expansion Packs behind when you want to travel light. The device is powered by a 206MHz StrongArm processor, 32MB of RAM, and a rechargeable lithium battery.

Frequent travelers often need a quick guide to restaurant listings, store locations, movie times, and nightlife. If you own a Palm, you're in luck. **Vindigo,** a free Palm program, is currently available in editions with listings for Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Good things do come in small packages. The $399 **Nomad II MG** from Creative Technology weighs just 3 ounces, plays MP3 and Windows Media files, functions as an FM radio, and can record audio. You can supplement the integrated 64MB of memory with a SmartMedia card, and a USB port makes for fast audio transfers. The unit is even upgradable, so you'll be ready for future audio formats.

Speaking of small packages, IBM Corp.'s **Microdrive** is a miracle of miniaturization. Smaller than a matchbook (it fits into a CompactFlash+ Type II slot), this mobile hard drive offers big-time storage for a variety of handheld devices. When we reviewed the 340MB card (the largest capacity available at the time) in our March issue it was priced at $499. IBM has since cut the price to $279, and introduced even larger 500MB ($399) and 1GB ($499) Microdrives.

If you want evidence that the future is here now, look no further than Motorola's CDMA-based **Timeport P8167** wireless phone, which lets you surf the Web from street corners. The $299 phone has a built-in "micro-browser" and comes with Starfish TrueSync software for one-step synchronization between your PC and other wireless devices.

With most portable projectors selling between $5,000 and $10,000, Sony's $2,999 **VPL-CS1 SuperLite LCD Projector** is an especially good deal. It weighs just 6.5 pounds and has a brightness rating of 600 ANSI lumens. The projector has a native SVGA resolution, but it also supports XGA. Notebook users will appreciate the VPL-CS1's ability to move their notebook's cursor using the projector's remote control.

Boxlight XD-9m

It may not be as inexpensive as the Sony projector, but the $5,499 **Boxlight XD-9m** weighs only 4.8 pounds and sports a brightness rating of 1,000 ANSI lumens. This lightweight, high-performance projector features a native XGA resolution, HDTV compatibility, and a DLP projection engine. It's backed by a two-year warranty, and it costs $500 less than the InFocus LP335, which shares the same plastics and base specifications. ▼

Creative Nomad II MG

Upcoming

Talking Books

E-books haven't been that successful, but that may change with Franklin's **eBookMan.** Franklin plans to ship three eBookMan models, available for $129.95, $179.95, and $229.95. All feature 240x200 screens, an easy-to-use interface, MP3 and Microsoft Reader compatibility, and a MultiMediaCard slot. The eBookMan is also compatible with more than 12,000 audio books from Audible *(www.audible.com)*, so you can listen to your books as well as read them.

For additional product information, see p. 160.

TOP 100

Hardware

From 3-megapixel digital cameras to behemoth hard drives to fast home-networking solutions running over conventional phone lines, the past year has witnessed stunning innovations in hardware.

Take inkjet printers, for example. Just when we thought inkjet technology couldn't get any better, along came the **Epson Stylus Photo 870.** Selling for about $273 and consuming approximately $1.95 worth of ink and paper to print a full-page glossy image, the Photo 870 may not be the least expensive inkjet on the market. But price quickly becomes a nonissue when you see how fast the Epson pumps out gorgeous moisture-resistant color prints that will last over a decade without fading.

Equally impressive is the **Lexmark Z52 Color Jetprinter.** Whether printing color photos, gray-scale images, or monochrome text, this $167 inkjet boasts some of the highest print speeds and lowest operating costs of any unit in its class. Throw in its cool speech-enabled driver, 2,400x1,200-dpi resolution, and competitive output quality, and you have a terrific choice for text or photo printing.

If you're interested in higher-volume monochrome output, look no further than the **Lexmark Optra E312** personal laser printer. Offering improved performance and twice the memory of the outstanding Optra E310 (reviewed in our February issue), the E312 offers letter-perfect output quality and commendable ease of use. It's also the first under-$400 laser we've seen that includes both 1,200-dpi PostScript support and a USB interface.

S3 Rio Digital Audio Receiver

This was also a banner year for inexpensive scanners. Leading the pack is the **Umax Astra 3400,** a $98 marvel that offers both fast scan times and impressive OCR performance.

Epson Stylus Photo 870

The easy-to-use 3400 also provides sophisticated features such as a one-touch scan-to-file button, automatic image cropping and de-skewing, and the ability to differentiate between color and monochrome documents.

Even more flexible is the **Epson Stylus Scan 2500** all-in-one device. Although it lacks a fax modem, the 2500 packs a 1,440x720-dpi inkjet printer, a 600x2,400-dpi scanner, a photocopier, and a dual USB/parallel interface in one chassis. It can't match the print speeds of today's fastest stand-alone inkjets, but its reasonable $379 price and surprisingly high-quality output make it one of the finest all-in-one units on the market.

Targeted at users who only need Web-browsing and e-mail capability, Internet appliances offer an inexpensive and uncomplicated introduction to the world online. One of the best of this new breed is the **Compaq iPaq Home Internet Appliance,** which sells for $199 (plus a three-year commitment to MSN at $21.95 a month) and includes a 10-inch color LCD screen and a wireless keyboard with 10 dedicated shortcut keys. It also provides four USB ports for additions such as a mouse or an optional customized Epson inkjet printer.

The **Samsung SyncMaster 770TFT** is one of the first flat-panel LCD monitors to offer a generous 17-inch, 1,280x1,024 viewing area for under $1,500. Only 2.5 inches thick and weighing a mere 18.5 pounds, the svelte 770TFT also has some nifty features like a wide 160-degree viewing angle, external audio jacks, and the ability to rotate between portrait and landscape viewing modes.

The $456 **Hitachi CM771** offers equally innovative technology in a 19-inch CRT. One of the first displays to incorporate a flat-face Invar Shadow Mask tube, it offers an ultrafine 0.22mm dot pitch. It produces brighter, higher-contrast images than other flat-face monitors, while significantly reducing

Hardware

- Cambridge SoundWorks DeskTop Theater 5.1 DTT3500 Digital
- Compaq iPaq Home Internet Appliance
- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum 5.1
- CyberPower CPS500SL
- Elsa Gladiac
- Epson PhotoPC 3000Z
- Epson Stylus Photo 870
- Epson Stylus Scan 2500
- Hitachi CM771
- Lexmark Optra E312
- Lexmark Z52 Color Jetprinter
- Maxtor DiamondMax 60
- Netgear PA301 Phoneline 10X
- Nikon Coolpix 800
- Nikon Coolpix 990
- Plextor PlexWriter 12/10/32A
- S3 Rio Digital Audio Receiver
- Samsung SyncMaster 770TFT
- Sonigistix Monsoon MH-500 Multimedia Speaker System
- Sony DCR-PC100
- 3Com HomeConnect PC Digital WebCam
- ThrustMaster NASCAR Pro Digital 2 Racing Wheel
- Umax Astra 3400

For additional product information, see p. 160.

chassis depth and power consumption.

If you're into high-speed 3D games, you'll love the **Elsa Gladiac.** Based on nVidia's state-of-the-art GeForce2 GTS graphics processor, this 4x AGP board produced some of the highest benchmark scores we've ever seen. The original 32MB Gladiac ($300 average selling price) generated eye-popping graphics when we reviewed it in our September issue, but the recently introduced 64MB version ($408) promises even better results.

Just as remarkable is the **Maxtor DiamondMax 60** hard drive, which offers a whopping 60GB of storage for well under $300. The secret is an extremely high data density, which allows the 5,400-rpm DiamondMax to transfer data at rates approaching those of pricier 7,200-rpm models. Factor in Maxtor's superb installation software, low-noise Silent Store mode, and under-9ms seek time, and you have an unbeatable way to add immense amounts of storage to your PC.

Another innovative product is the **Plextor PlexWriter 12/10/32A** CD-RW drive, which offers unparalleled 12x recordable and 10x rewritable performance. Our evaluation unit recorded a 70-minute audio CD in under 10 minutes, and burned a full CD-R in less than 7 minutes. Best of all is the $279 PlexWriter's terrific Burn-Proof feature, which lets it automatically recover from interruptions in the input data stream while recording.

The big news in digital cameras this year was the appearance of affordable 3-megapixel models capable of producing output rivaling that of 35mm film cameras. One of our favorites was the $894 **Epson PhotoPC 3000Z,** which combines top-notch image quality with features such as a built-in microphone, a 24mm-to-102mm optical zoom, the ability to capture 15-fps Motion JPEG video clips, and a superior selection of exposure and metering controls.

Upcoming

X-Factor

Another surprise from Microsoft was the company's groundbreaking announcement of plans to enter the game-console market in the fall of 2001. Microsoft claims its consumer-oriented **Xbox** console will produce the most realistic gaming experience ever. Loaded with a 733MHz Pentium III processor, a broadband Internet connection, 3D sound, DirectX support, and state-of-the-art graphics, Xbox could turn the console industry into a whole new game.

Nikon Coolpix 990

Another camera worthy of mention is the $941 **Nikon Coolpix 990.** Its superb Nikkor 3x zoom lens and hefty 3.3-megapixel CCD produce outstanding detail and color accuracy as good as any we've seen in a sub-$1,000 camera. The Coolpix 990 also features a huge selection of manual and automatic settings, as well as a unique pivoting chassis design that lets you swivel its lens 360 degrees.

The less expensive 2-megapixel **Nikon Coolpix 800** boasts crisply detailed output, terrific Nikkor optics, a 9.5-ounce carrying weight, and an average selling price just under $500. Like all Coolpix cameras, the 800 is loaded with an array of easy-to-use exposure, focus, flash, metering, and image-compression controls. If you want an affordable camera that doesn't cut corners, it's definitely worth a look.

The **Sony DCR-PC100** was one of the first Mini DV digital camcorders available, and it's still one of the best. Its tiny, lightweight chassis, exquisite Zeiss optics, and flexible, responsive controls make it a natural for shooting beautifully detailed digital video or snapping high-resolution 1,152x864 still images. Best of all, thanks to a recent price drop, the $1,655 DCR-PC100 is now also a great bargain.

If your video aspirations go no further than chatting on the Web, *consider the $132* **3Com HomeConnect PC Digital WebCam.** In addition to its impressive 1,280x960 maximum resolution, the HomeConnect's remarkably sensitive CCD can generate usable video output in near darkness. The camera also ships with a generous software bundle that includes an assortment of image-editing, videophone, video-mail, and video-editing programs.

Don't even consider playing a high-speed racing game without the **ThrustMaster NASCAR Pro Digital 2 Racing Wheel.** Besides its ergonomically designed auto-calibrating padded steering wheel, the $60 Pro Digital 2 includes separate gas and brake pedals, integrated shifter paddles, an inline stick shift, and a USB interface. The Pro Digital 2 may lack the force-feedback capability offered by costlier wheels, but its price can't be beat.

We thought the **Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Platinum** already offered everything you could expect from a sound board: low noise, a top-notch synthesizer, an innovative front-mounted I/O box for connecting external sound sources, and an over-the-top software bundle. But by the time you read this, the new $199 **Platinum 5.1** model will add a wireless remote, optical digital-audio connectors, and 5.1-channel Dolby Digital sound to the mix.

Speaking of Dolby Digital, this year's best six-piece computer speaker system could be the **Cambridge SoundWorks DeskTop Theater 5.1 DTT3500 Digital.** Like its DTT2500 predecessor, the $349.99-estimated DTT3500 will include five stunningly accurate SoundWorks satellites, a powerful subwoofer,

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Hardware

and a generous accessory bundle. In addition, its redesigned outboard Dolby Digital decoder will add optical connectors, PlayStation2 compatibility, and a cordless remote.

If two channels are enough to keep you happy, you won't find a better deal than the $79 **Sonigistix Monsoon MH-500 Multimedia Speaker System.** Cleverly combining Sonigistix's superb flat-panel tweeters with conventional midrange cones and a subwoofer, the MH-500 pumps out beautifully accurate sound above 50Hz. The system lacks the deep bass and higher volume levels of Sonigistix's higher-end models, but it's also a fraction of the price.

You can extend your computer's sound system

Sony DCR-PC100

to every room in the house with S3's **Rio Digital Audio Receiver** music network. The $299.95 package includes a PCI network interface card that transmits digital audio through your phone lines and a remote Rio Receiver module that plays the sound in another room. Best of all, the digital audio doesn't interfere with your phone service.

Netgear's **PA301 Phoneline 10X** (approximately $54 per PC) takes

Sonigistix Monsoon MH-500 Multimedia Speaker System

this concept one step further by providing a full-blown 10Mbps local-area network that runs over ordinary phone lines. Other networking products that comply with the HomePNA 2.0 standard offer similar functionality, but we know of no competitor that matches the Phoneline 10X's simple automated setup procedures, outstanding documentation, unconditional lifetime warranty, and 24/7 toll-free tech support.

If you're concerned about protecting all that equipment from blackouts and lightning strikes, check out the $70 **CPS500SL** uninterruptible power supply from CyberPower Systems. In addition to six surge-protected outlets—three of which provide up to 20 minutes of battery backup—and a pair of protected fax-modem ports, the authoritative CPS500SL can even command your PC to automatically back up open files and shut itself down during a blackout. ▼

Software

The Internet is a powerful part of this year's best software picks. Whether you're looking for an MP3 jukebox, a personal-finance manager, or a graphics toolset, you'll find the Web runs through it.

One of the easiest ways to manage your music files is to download a free copy of **MusicMatch Jukebox 5.1.** This popular MP3 jukebox program makes it easy to record, play, import, and organize MP3, WAV, and Windows Media files. Version 5.1 offers improved online-search functions, while the $29.99 Pro upgrade adds enhancements such as higher-performance CD burning, a jewel-case-insert generator, and 10-band graphic equalization.

Microsoft's more ambitious **Windows Media Player 7** provides a unified interface for playing, recording, and managing audio, video, and MIDI files. This free Windows utility also delivers superior streaming-media playback capabilities and can even download songs to portable music players. Although WMP doesn't support RealAudio, RealVideo, or QuickTime files—and can play, but not record, MP3 files—it's the way to go if you're looking for a slick, versatile media solution.

Users looking to compose their own MIDI tunes will be knocked out by the glitch-free real-time performance and huge selection of integrated MIDI/audio-recording and composition tools of **Cakewalk Pro Audio 9** (about $264). Since our July review, Cakewalk has released the $549 Cakewalk Pro Suite, an even more powerful package that

MusicMatch Jukebox 5.1

Extensis Portfolio 5.0

adds an immense collection of media libraries, tutorials, utilities, and plug-ins worth more than $750 if purchased separately.

If Internet Explorer is starting to feel a little bloated, take a peek at **Snippets 2.0,** a free download. This clever utility lets you create floating toolbars that display live Internet data—such as sports scores, stock quotes, or weather forecasts—in tiny animated buttons. You can customize toolbars from more than 100 buttons that gather data from popular sites.

Enfish Onespace provides another innovative way to access the Web by letting you build personal portals that combine Windows Explorer-style hard drive navigation with links to Internet resources such as search engines, e-mail, news and shopping sites, even online games. Onespace also offers advanced cataloging and search capabilities based on a sophisticated pattern-matching engine that intelligently analyzes the contents of documents stored on your machine.

The Internet can also be a source of disk-cluttering downloads. If you've been looking for an easy way to organize the thousands of media files stored on your hard drive, check out **Extensis Portfolio 5.0.** One of the fastest and most flexible media managers on the market, the $176 Portfolio automatically catalogs entire directories into easily sorted thumbnail galleries. It also performs admirably in a distributed-media environment.

Once your system is organized, keeping it up and running is a snap with Symantec's **Norton SystemWorks 2001.** In addition to best-of-breed stalwarts like Norton AntiVirus and the Norton Utilities troubleshooting and system-optimization tools, SystemWorks includes the CleanSweep disk-cleanup program, Norton's Web Services live upgrade applications, and a spiffy new front end—all for only $53. No system should be without it.

Symantec's **Norton Personal Firewall** is equally essential for anyone who uses an always-on cable-modem or DSL connection. Like most firewall software, it can protect you from Net-roaming goons intent on invading your privacy. But what sets this $46 package apart is its remarkably flexible customization tools, comprehensive reporting capabilities, and the ability to individually protect specific pieces of data on your hard drive.

If you're more worried about protecting your system from damage caused by bad installs, virus attacks, and system crashes, buying a copy of Adaptec's **GoBack 2.2** could be the best $55 you'll ever spend. Once installed, GoBack keeps track of every change made to your system and, if disaster strikes, lets you turn back the clock to an earlier time when everything worked.

Snippets 2.0

Generations Grande Suite 8.0 from SierraHome similarly offers an impressive range of genealogy tools and resources for traveling back through time to research family histories. The $89.95 program encompasses 31 data CDs and several ancillary programs, such as Snapshot Express for touching up scans of old photos. Also new is the virtual 3D Tree feature that lets you view your family tree (along with photos, notations, and even sound and video files) in a 3D environment.

It doesn't take much research to discover that the $68 **Microsoft Encarta Reference Suite 2001** is the most comprehensive digital encyclopedia around. In addition to the multimedia-rich Encarta Encyclopedia Deluxe and Encarta Africana encyclopedias, it features a speech-enabled English dictionary, an interactive atlas, and a powerful selection of Internet-friendly research tools—all for just a few dollars more than last year's Deluxe Encyclopedia alone.

Hearing is believing with ScanSoft's **OmniPage Pro 10** (about $465, or $79 for the upgrade version). In addition to its streamlined interface and one-click automatic functionality, this leading optical character recognition (OCR) software has a new text-to-speech feature, Voice Read-Back, which allows you to follow along as your scanned-in document is read back to you in an easy-to-understand voice.

For true hands-free interaction with your PC, load up the $140 **L&H Voice Xpress**

Software

- Adobe Photoshop 6.0
- Cakewalk Pro Audio 9
- Complete LandDesigner 6.0 3D Design Collection
- Corel Painter 6.1
- Enfish Onespace
- Extensis Portfolio 5.0
- Generations Grande Suite 8.0
- GoBack 2.2
- HomeSite 4.5
- L&H Voice Xpress Professional 5.0
- Macromedia Dreamweaver 3 Fireworks 3 Studio
- Microsoft Encarta Reference Suite 2001
- Microsoft Money 2001 Deluxe
- Microsoft Streets & Trips 2001
- MusicMatch Jukebox 5.1
- Norton Personal Firewall
- Norton SystemWorks 2001
- OmniPage Pro 10
- Quicken TurboTax Deluxe
- Snippets 2.0
- Ulead Cool 3D 3.0
- Ulead PhotoImpact 6 Web Studio Pro
- Windows Media Player 7

Upcoming

Direct Hit

The best news of the year for game designers might be Microsoft's announcement of **DirectX 8.0,** which standardizes the way sound, graphics, and controller hardware communicate with applications. This major upgrade, which incorporated an unprecedented degree of user input, will consolidate several major DirectX components and add support for speech-controlled interfaces, audio reverb, and interplayer voice communications. If you think today's high-speed 3D games are cutting-edge, you ain't seen nothing yet.

For additional product information, see p. 160.

Software

Professional 5.0 voice-recognition software. Its many innovative features include an accuracy builder that tries to learn your vocabulary by analyzing stored documents and e-mail messages, a surprisingly human-sounding text-to-speech converter, and the ability to automatically filter out "ums" and "ahhs" when you speak. If all this isn't enough, L&H even throws in a free Plantronics headset.

Four-wheeled road warriors lacking a natural sense of direction will find roadside assistance in **Microsoft Streets & Trips 2001.** Miles ahead of other street-mapping programs, this $36 package generates driving instructions and annotated maps in a variety of formats, boasts a terrific new interface, communicates with PDAs and Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, and can even export maps and instructions as Web pages.

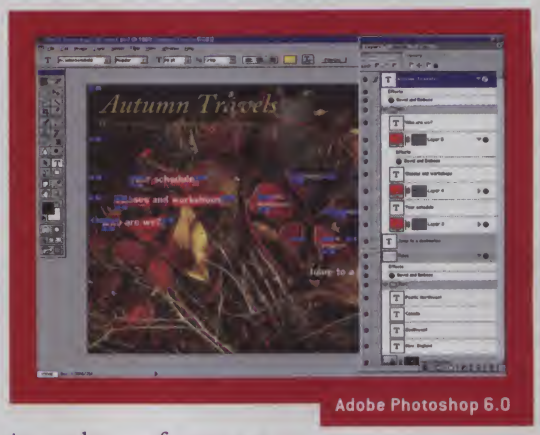
Cakewalk Pro Audio 9

For the stay-at-home crowd, SierraHome's sophisticated **Complete LandDesigner 6.0 3D Design Collection** landscaping package lets you plant 3D virtual-reality gardens with thousands of types of annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees. The huge bundle sells for only $66 and also includes several other powerful gardening programs and a greenhouse-load of reference material.

The $61 **Microsoft Money 2001 Deluxe** is a personal-finance powerhouse capable of giving market-leader Quicken a run for the money. In addition to its comprehensive selection of investment-management, bookkeeping, budgeting, and retirement-planning features, this latest version adds support for the Kiplinger TaxCut tax-prep application, real-time financial advice and feedback capabilities, and tight integration with numerous Web-based financial services. Managing your money was never easier.

If tax software scares you almost as much as the IRS does, you'll have a hard time finding a less intimidating package than Intuit's $30 **Quicken TurboTax Deluxe.** TurboTax has a non-threatening interface, is loaded with automatic data-checking features, and contains one of the most sympathetic help facilities we've seen. Even if it won't pay your tax bill, it will hold your hand while you sign the check.

Digital photographers, graphics professionals, and hobbyists also have plenty of cool tools to choose from this year. **Adobe Photoshop,** for instance, has long been viewed as the gold standard of image editors, and the 6.0 version ($609 estimated) now extends its reach online. In addition to flexible new text-editing capabilities, this latest version adds a slew of vector-drawing, HTML, and Web-graphics features that approach the power of programs like Macromedia Fireworks.



Adobe Photoshop 6.0

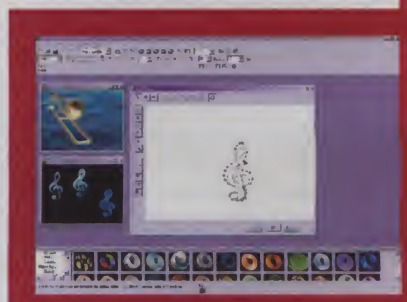
At the opposite end of the price spectrum is **Ulead PhotoImpact 6 Web Studio Pro,** an exceptionally flexible $100 graphics program loaded with powerful image-editing tools and sophisticated effects. Now seamlessly integrated into the HTML environment, PhotoImpact makes it incredibly easy to generate graphic elements such as animated GIFs, buttons, rollovers, and backgrounds, and can even export them as ready-to-edit Web pages.

Another powerhouse is **Corel** (formerly MetaCreations) **Painter 6.1,** a free upgrade from the $375 Painter 6.0. The first package to offer true natural-media graphics tools, this pioneering paint program lets you work with virtual brushes, pens, markers, canvases, and other types of art materials that behave just like their real-world counterparts.

Our favorite 3D-graphics package of the year is the ultrafriendly **Ulead Cool 3D 3.0** titling and animation program. Despite its bargain-basement $71 price, Cool 3D packs just about every imaginable 3D-graphics tool into a remarkably intuitive drag-and-drop interface. It also offers flexible new video-output and Web-animation features, as well as an extraordinary selection of breathtaking effects. You won't find a superior program at twice the price.

There's no better way to assemble a collection of images, titles, text, and animations into a world-class Web site than with **Macromedia Dreamweaver 3 Fireworks 3 Studio.** Between Dreamweaver's envelope-pushing site-design capabilities and Fireworks' flexible graphics-creation tools, these tightly integrated packages create one of the most powerful Web-authoring environments you can buy. Best of all, Macromedia sells the two bundled together at a discounted price of about $370.

If you're more of an under-the-hood Web designer, Allaire's **HomeSite 4.5** can help streamline the laborious task of coding HTML from scratch. Like an intelligent text editor, HomeSite checks the syntax and spelling of each line as you type it and offers advanced features like an instant Preview Mode, multifile search capabilities, and Java-function wizards. It's a terrific way to quickly pump out pages without surrendering an iota of control. ▼



Ulead Cool 3D 3.0

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Kingston TECHNOLOGY PERIPHERALS

TOP 100

Games

Close that spreadsheet and break out the joystick—it's time for some fun. From action/adventure games to space-combat sims, this has been a banner year for 3D games.

Age of Empires II: The Age of Kings

Electronic Arts' **The Sims** is a control freak's delight. This simulation lets you create an entire neighborhood of virtual beings, give them personalities and homes, and then watch them interact. The game's AI is awesome, and seeing your Sims react to the mundane, humorous, or horrifying situations you create will engross you for hours at a time. God never had it so good.

Nor does it get any better for strategy fans than Microsoft's **Age of Empires II: The Age of Kings,** which offers epic gameplay spanning the millennium following the fall of Rome. This historically accurate real-time game assigns you the role of one of 13 Middle Age civilizations intent on conquering the world. Vivid detail, brains-over-brawn tactics, and a mind-boggling array of combat options make this one of the most addicting games of the genre.

Eidos Interactive's **Thief II: The Metal Age** makes up in intensity what it lacks in high-speed slash-and-gore. As in the original Thief, most of the action revolves around an enigmatic character who completes his missions more through stealth than swordplay. The richly detailed environments, superb 3D soundtrack, and haunting enemies combine to create a game you'll play at the edge of your seat.

For more overt action, check out Interplay's **Star Trek: Klingon Academy,** which casts you as a young Klingon cadet undergoing elite combat training. You can choose any of 25 elaborate mission scenarios or opt for custom skirmishes, all of which involve spectacular pyrotechnics and thrilling ship-to-ship combat.

Another spectacular space-combat game is NovaLogic's **Tachyon: The Fringe.** Containing more than 60 missions, a consuming story line, imaginative ship controls, and superb 3D graphics, Tachyon offers incredibly engaging single-player action. But it's even more exciting in multiplayer mode: offering intense 16-player LAN-based deathmatches and awesome 120-person online arena games.

The Sims

If you prefer your confrontations more up front and personal, look no further than **Unreal Tournament.** This beautiful but violent first-person shooter offers five different play modes that provide surprising diversity. Both single-player and multiplayer gameplay are incredibly intense, and the game's vicious AI-driven opponents are as convincing as any we've seen.

Even more devilish is **Diablo II** from Blizzard Entertainment. The long-awaited sequel to 1997's hack-and-slash classic is just as fierce as its predecessor and boasts even more astounding graphics. The game's plot is still basically a series of demon-slaying missions, but the devil is in the details: Diablo's terrific fight sequences, incredible lighting effects, and complex, ever-changing landscapes place it in a class by itself.

Rainbow Six: Rogue Spear from Red Storm Entertainment provides more down-to-earth entertainment based on the exploits of the Rainbow antiterrorist group created in Tom Clancy's best-selling novel. Each Rogue Spear mission pits Rainbow members against heavily armed terrorists intent on wreaking havoc. The game's realistic weaponry, locales, and plots all add up to a truly masterful interactive thriller.

Just as realistic is EA Sports' **NHL 2001,** which lets you compete with real-life NHL players and even create a personalized custom player embellished with a scanned image of your face. Authentic crowd noises and real-time commentary add to the game's excitement, as do its rock-solid physics, convincing AI, and outstanding online-league multiplayer options.

If you prefer the sandlot to the rink, take a swing at Humongous Entertainment's **Backyard Baseball 2001.** Designed for kids ages 5 through 12, Backyard Baseball lets young sluggers

Games

- Age of Empires II: The Age of Kings
- Backyard Baseball 2001
- Diablo II
- Need for Speed: Porsche Unleashed
- NHL 2001
- Pro Pinball: Fantastic Journey
- Rainbow Six: Rogue Spear
- Re-Volt
- The Sims
- Star Trek: Klingon Academy
- Tachyon: The Fringe
- Thief II: The Metal Age
- Unreal Tournament

For additional product information, see p. 160.

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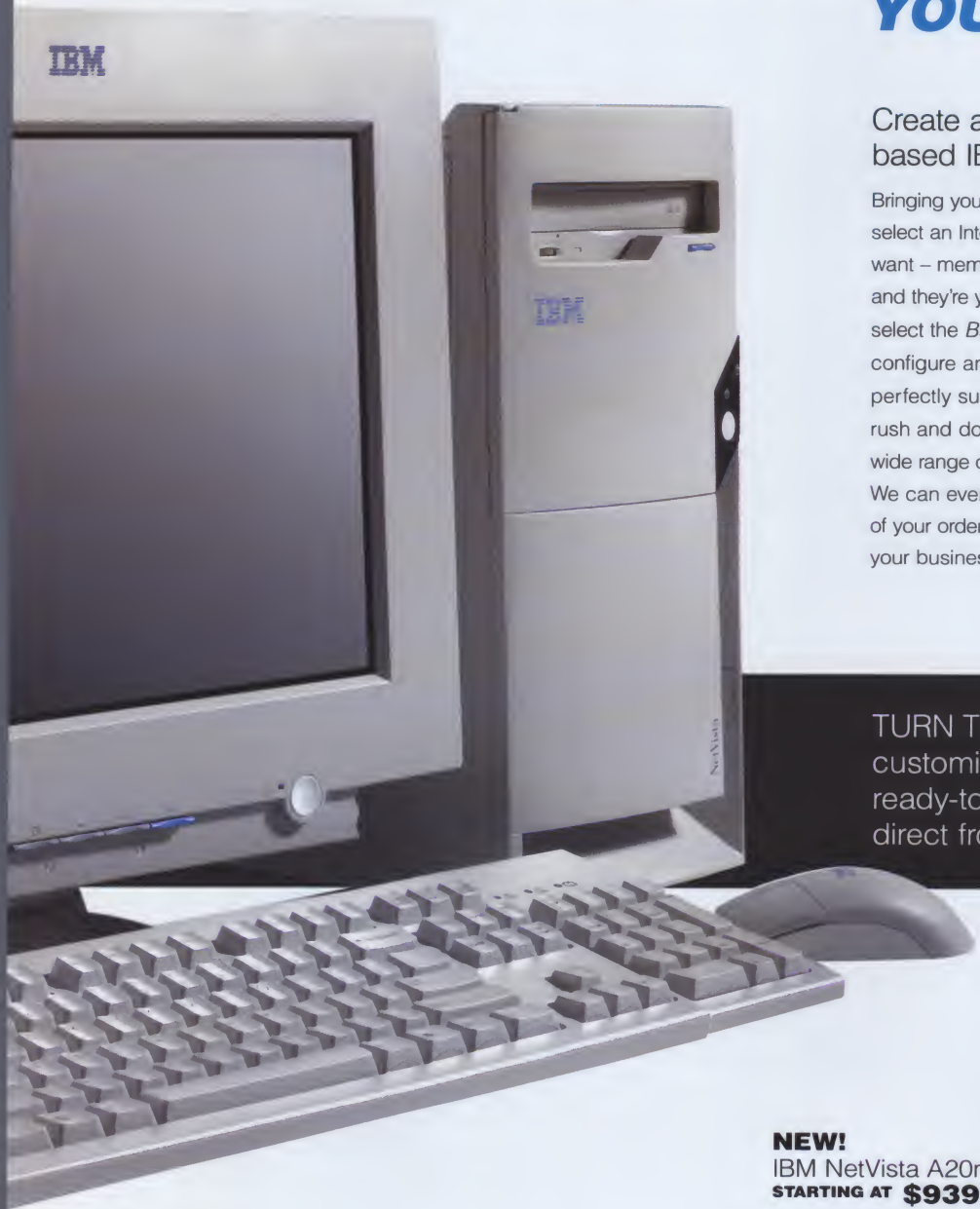

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Games

step up to the plate against animated kiddie versions of pros such as Mark McGwire and Cal Ripken Jr. Throw in a rich selection of gameplay options and truly spiffy cartoon animation, and you have one of this season's heaviest hitters.

If pinball is your sport, Empire Interactive's **Pro Pinball: Fantastic Journey** may convince you to trade in your flippers for a keyboard. Based on the latest iteration of Empire Interactive's amazingly realistic Pro Pinball engine, Fantastic Journey's smooth 3D graphics and Dolby Surround soundtrack create the most authentic pinball game ever.

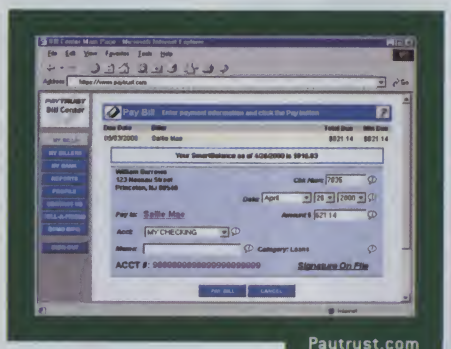
For racing-sim fans, Electronic Arts' **Need for Speed: Porsche Unleashed** leaves the competition in the dust. Offering 80 Porsche models dating back to 1948, Unleashed delivers outstanding graphics, challenging course layouts, and truly useful cockpit controls. Its greatest strength, however, is the remarkably accurate handling built into each car.

Finally, the most imaginative racing game of all just might be Acclaim's **Re-Volt,** which puts you in the driver's seat of an ultrarealistic radio-controlled toy car. We loved driving Re-Volt cars under tables and between legs while scooting around normally grim locales like museums and grocery stores—not to mention demolishing other vehicles with vicious little weapons like water balloons and bottle rockets. Big fun from a bug's-eye view. ▼

TOP 100

Web Services

The Internet isn't merely a conduit of information, but of time- and money-saving services as well. Here's our take on the Web's Magnificent Seven.



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Want to extend your drive space into cyberspace? Click over to **i-drive.** This service offers a wealth of features, including powerful third-party access controls and the ability to schedule and automatically update online backups. But i-drive's biggest selling point is its 50MB of free storage space to upload and share your PC files, and unlimited online storage for any content gleaned from the Web.

FilePool is another online-storage service, but it distinguishes itself from the pack by assigning every uploaded file a secure Web address encoded with a digital signature. Stored files can then be forwarded to third parties by simply pasting each file's URL into an e-mail message. It's a surprisingly painless way to ensure the secure delivery of documents and media files.

Onebox (which has a partnership with ZDNet, *Computer Shopper's* parent company) lets you maintain a unified front by providing a free online in-box for e-mail, faxes, and voice messages. Your Onebox can be configured to automatically notify you of incoming messages by pager, e-mail, or cell phone, and you can even pick up messages by phone when you're away from your PC. The only downside is Onebox's 3MB storage limit, which can be upgraded to 25MB for a $4.95 monthly fee.

Want to unify everything in your online life? Try the **Yodlee e-Personalization Platform.** Yodlee lets you pull records from any of 1,200 sites to create a custom Web page filled with every Internet-banking, e-mail, investment, shopping, travel, and news service you subscribe to. Whether you use a PC, Palm device, or Pocket PC, it's a terrific way to gather all your online eggs in one basket.

Another way to leave your personal imprint on the Web is to design your own portal with **Octopus.com.** Like standard Internet portals, multipage Octopus sites can be packed with Internet links, graphics, streaming media, and services. But they also provide access to applications, documents, or any other type of content stored on your PC. A remarkably powerful and easy way to seamlessly meld your computer with the Net.

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Web Services

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- FilePool
- i-drive
- Octopus.com
- Onebox
- Paytrust.com
- Yodlee e-Personalization Platform

For additional product information, see p. 160.

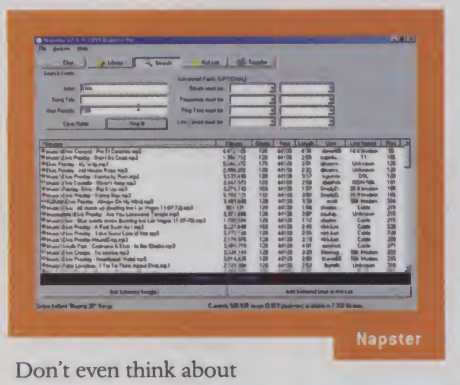
TOP 100

New Technologies

The Year 2000 was a lot more than Y2K. Here's a brief nod to the year's killer apps and product innovations.

Don't even think about switching to a high-speed Internet connection without first installing a **residential gateway.** These all-in-one devices combine a DSL or cable-modem interface with a hacker-resistant firewall and connection-sharing technology that lets every PC in the house access the Net through a single line. Residential gateways may sound like just another fad, but you really can't have a truly secure, flexible broadband connection without one.

Even if you don't have a broadband connection, the Home Phoneline Networking Alliance's *(www.homepna.org)* new **HomePNA 2.0** standard suddenly makes it a lot more attractive to run a LAN over your phone lines. Not only does it offer true cable-free installation, but it also boosts bandwidth an entire order of magnitude to an Ethernet-class 10Mbps.



Napster

The big news in mobile computing, meanwhile, is the ultra-low-power **Crusoe** CPU chip from tiny Transmeta Corp. The buzz was intense all year, and especially so after heavy hitters such as Gateway and IBM announced plans for Crusoe-based Internet appliances and a line of notebooks that run for 8 hours per charge. Will Crusoe be a Mobile Pentium-killer? It's still too soon to say, but it certainly got our attention.

Of course, **Napster** is the year's winner in the attention-getting category. As we went to press, the service's legality was still being hashed out in court. But there's no doubt about the value of Napster's peer-to-peer file-sharing technology, which lets users—and potentially, buyers and sellers—transfer goods without a centralized broker. Napster certainly raised the stakes in digital-music downloads, but its lasting impact ultimately may be seen in the next generation of e-commerce business models.

One technology that's already having a dramatic effect on the way we live is **personal television.** Market leaders **ReplayTV** and **TiVo** both offer computer-based PTV set-top boxes that can pause, rewind, and fast-forward live TV broadcasts, perform instant replays, record up to 30 hours of programming on special high-speed drives, and even locate shows by title, genre, actor, or keyword. Your VCR only wishes it were this smart. ▼

New Technologies

- Crusoe
- HomePNA 2.0 specification
- Napster
- Personal television
- Residential gateways

For additional product information, see p. 160.

The Year's Bottom 5

by John C. Dvorak

No two people would come up with the same list of worst products and technologies, but I think most can agree the following are contenders. Appearing on this list doesn't mean the ideas won't succeed; I wish them all luck. They'll need it. Given today's Web mania, it's no surprise that most of the Bottom Five are Internet-related.

1 Online Pet-Food Stores. I still shake my head about the incredible lunacy surrounding online pet-food stores. If people must have pet food sent FedEx to their homes, then maybe they either shouldn't have a pet or should reconsider their careers. The only ones who really need such a service are Florida drug dealers who can't leave their compound but are dedicated to the dog.

2 Alternative Money Schemes. This includes things such as Flooz and Beenz and whatever else comes along. Earth to entrepreneurs: What's wrong with dollars?!!

3 Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI). Now here's an idea! Let's see how the logic works: MP3 has become the standard, but it's also a route to piracy and bootlegging run rampant. So let's design a whole new system that will give record companies a revenue stream because, God knows, they don't make enough money selling $18 CDs that cost 28 cents to manufacture and contain only one worthwhile song. Yeah, people will stop what they are doing and help out the record companies with this idea. Hah.

4 Smell-O-Vision 2000. I still have trouble believing these folks are serious. The company, DigiScents, makes a device you hook up to your computer that emits various smells to enhance the computing experience. In other words, you can stink up the place. The device is called the iSmell. 'Nuff said.

5 FreePC. This was a huge turkey of an idea: Give away computers if people simply look at ads while the computer boots and as they use the PC. People wanted this dog, but advertisers knew the users were hardly a demographic worth reaching. The company didn't fold, but it was bought by eMachines, and now you can't get a FreePC. This whole fiasco reeks of bait-and-switch. Someone should investigate. ▼

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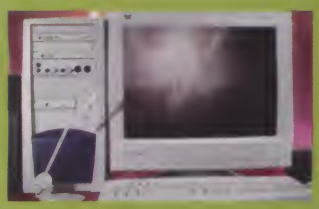

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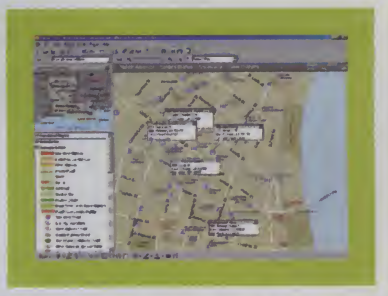

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JVC XL-R5000BK

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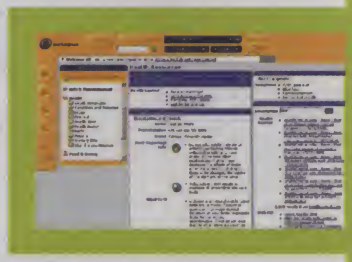

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Get Your Graphics Up to Speed

New graphics cards give games and productivity applications a whole new look and feel.

BY JAN OZER

Today, you can identify most computer components by one key feature. You buy a "900MHz" Pentium III, a "21-inch" monitor, a "56K" modem, a "24x" CD-ROM drive, or a "32-bit" sound card. Things boil down to straightforward, consumer-friendly metrics.

Stubbornly resisting such simplification is the graphics card. To choose one, you need to wrangle a bit with speeds and feeds (clock rate, memory size, data path), arcanely named features (anisotropic filtering, vertex blending), and marketing hype (Charisma Engine, Vibrant Color Quality^2), not to mention the occasional mysterious acronym (T&L, TMDS).

Still, you can pick a fire-breathing graphics card without too much effort. To help you make sense of the hieroglyphics, we'll discuss and demystify the items you'll find on a graphics-card spec sheet, and identify the features you need to focus on. By answering a few simple questions, you should be able to quickly zoom in on the product that suits your needs. A good place to start this Q&A is by looking at your existing computing environment.

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO GRAPHICS CARDS

SIZING UP HOME BASE

If your computer is less than two years old, it probably uses the Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP), a high-speed, efficient pathway for transferring data from computer to graphics card. If you bought your PC before 1998, it probably has PCI-based graphics. The two standards are not interchangeable, so your first step is to identify which your computer uses.

If the system is PCI-based, your job is simplified. There's only one PCI flavor, though flagging support for PCI will limit your card choices. In contrast, AGP comes in four basic flavors. The first three are AGP 1x, 2x, and 4x. The "x" indicates the multiple of AGP's original 266MB/sec transfer rate. The fourth is the AGP Pro standard, which provides increased electrical current for power-hungry workstation graphics cards.

If yours is an AGP 4x motherboard, you'll get the best results with a 4x graphics card, although most 4x motherboards can also handle 2x cards. In addition, though most 4x boards can drop to 2x to work with 2x motherboards, some newer graphics cards don't support AGP 1x. And if you're purchasing a monster card such as the three-slot Intense3D Wildcat 4210, make sure you've got a workstation that supports AGP Pro graphics.

Consider a couple of operating system-related issues, too. If you're running Windows 95 or 98 today, you'll likely consider upgrading to Windows 2000, Windows Millennium Edition, or Windows NT 4.0 soon. Be sure your card vendor supplies the necessary drivers. And if you plan to work with Linux or other Unix flavors, screen your candidates carefully—few vendors support them.

RESOLUTION AND REFRESH RATE

At the bottom of virtually all graphics-card spec sheets is a matrix showing resolution (for example, 640x480 or 800x600), display modes (such as 256 colors/8-bit or 16.7 million colors/24-bit), and refresh rates (such as 75Hz). Briefly, resolution describes the number of pixels displayed onscreen; display mode, the color depth; and refresh rate, the number of times per second the screen redraws.

Technically, these performance characteristics relate to the power of the graphics chip set, the amount of onboard memory, and the speed of the card's RAMDAC chip. Rather than getting entangled in technical details, just make sure that the board supports a resolution appropriate for your monitor, a display mode consistent with your intended usage, and a refresh rate (at the maximum resolution you'll use) that won't give you headaches—75Hz or above. Higher refresh rates are better, but only up to a point.

Most of today's boards with onboard T&L use one of nVidia's four GeForce chip sets. Consider, for example, Creative Labs' GeForce 256-based 3D Blaster Annihilator Pro, Guillemot's GeForce2 MX-based Hercules 3D Prophet II MX, or Guillemot's GeForce2 GTS-based Hercules 3D Prophet II GTS. Look, too, for boards based on nVidia's new GeForce2 Ultra.

Paying extra to achieve refresh rates in excess of 100Hz probably isn't going to make a visible difference.

Figuring a target resolution is straightforward. For example, if you have a 14-inch or 15-inch monitor, you'll typically run in 640x480 or 800x600 mode, increasing to 1,024x768 or 1,280x1,024 for a 17-inch monitor, and 1,600x1,200 or higher for a 21-inch monitor.

If you plan on displaying any images at all, even those appearing in your browser when surfing the Web, insist on 24-bit or 32-bit color. The only exception is the occasional gaming system. Some gamers may want to sacrifice visual quality for the additional frame rate that running in 16-bit mode affords.

WANNA PLAY GAMES?

If your goal is 3D gaming, you're in the center of the graphics universe.

Gaming is the primary focus for most major graphics-chip and -board vendors. However, before buying the biggest, baddest, fastest graphics screamer, consider that if your computer is getting a touch long in the tooth, you may see less of a performance improvement than you might like.

Here's why. Technically, 3D gameplay involves four stages. (See the graphic "T&L's Role in 3D Rendering.") Application tasks, driven by the host CPU, execute game interactivity, such as shooting a gun, turning your car, or determining which characters show up when you peek around the corner. Once the CPU processes this load, the information passes into the 3D-rendering pipeline, which includes the steps of transform and lighting (T&L), triangle setup, and pixel rendering.

Until recently, the host CPU performed application tasks *and* T&L, a processor-intensive task that slowed performance dramatically. Most new graphics chips, starting with nVidia's GeForce 256, will handle T&L, taking a major load off the host CPU.

However, if the application tasks are extremely complex, the CPU becomes the performance limiter, and a new 3D-graphics card won't produce more frames per second. It's like two horses pulling the same wagon: Upgrade just one horse to a thoroughbred racer, and the wagon won't go much faster, because it can't travel faster than the slowest horse.

Each game presents a different mix of application tasks and tasks handled in the 3D pipeline, making a precise CPU-speed cutoff impossible to make. If your computer is a Pentium II lacking support for the SIMD instruction set, or an AMD system without 3DNow support, a new graphics card probably won't substantially improve the frame rate of games that leverage the most sophisticated 3D-rendering techniques. However, if you're configuring a brand-new PC based on a Pentium III, Duron, or Athlon CPU, a graphics card with onboard T&L is an absolute necessity.

This additional horsepower frees game developers to add complexity to their titles without sacrificing playback frame rate,

yielding more realistic games. The latest 3D chips also boast features like vertex skinning, which adds further realism to animated characters, and cubic environment mapping, which makes the entire game environment look more realistic.

Best of all, unlike the early days of chip-specific, proprietary programming interfaces, these new hardware features are supported in Microsoft's DirectX 7, the dominant Windows game-development platform. Any game developed under DirectX 7 can access these hardware features from any chip or board developer. Gone are the multitude of compatibility conflicts that plagued earlier 3D developments.

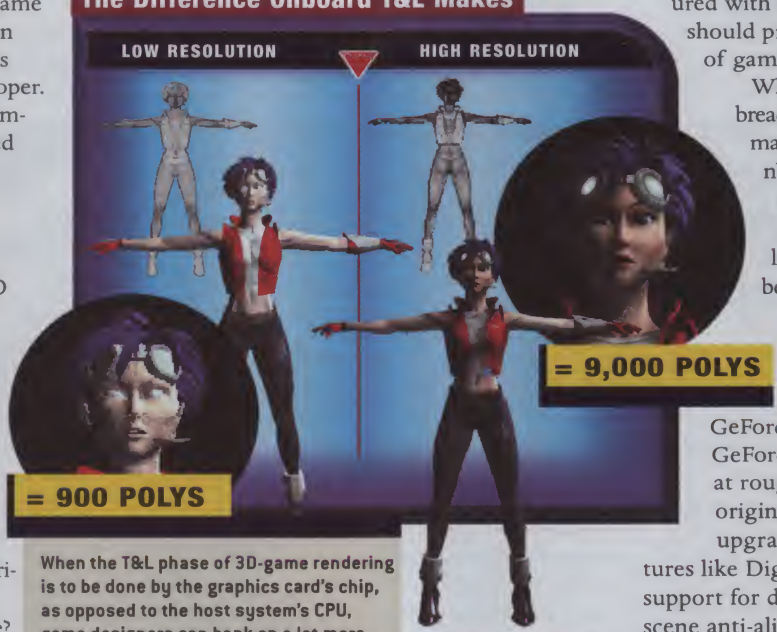
GAMING CHOICES: IT'S IN THE CHIPS

When it comes to 3D gaming, choose a chip first, then a manufacturer. Over the last 12 months, choosing a chip vendor became a lot easier, because Matrox did not release a chip with onboard T&L, and S3 sold its chip business to Via. This leaves 3dfx, ATI, and nVidia as the primary gaming-chip developers.

How to compare the three? Mind and market share have fallen dramatically of late for 3dfx, primarily because of shipping delays and the company's lack of anticipation of market demands. Like Matrox, it failed to integrate T&L into its newest chip set.

That said, it's too soon to dismiss this venerable player. Because 3dfx now sells boards as well as chips, it can leverage the scalability of the Voodoo Scalable Architecture (VSA-100) by placing multiple graphics processors on a single game card. For example, the recently launched $299 Voodoo 5500 ships with two graphics processors and 64MB of SDRAM. The company has also announced the as-yet-unpriced Voodoo 6000, configured with four VSA-100 chips and 128MB of RAM. Coupled with a system based on a fast Pentium III or AMD Athlon chip set, these boards will be able to power serious high-performance play.

The Difference Onboard T&L Makes



When the T&L phase of 3D-game rendering is to be done by the graphics card's chip, as opposed to the host system's CPU, game designers can bank on a lot more processing power. That means they can create characters and backgrounds with higher polygon counts that won't slow game play. As you can see above, this translates into much greater realism.

Benefiting the most from 3dfx's stumbles is nVidia, whose GeForce 256 card was the first to market with onboard T&L. Significantly, nVidia has since shipped its second-generation T&L processor, in the GeForce2 family, and announced the release of its GeForce2 Ultra at the end of the summer. This effectively places it at least two generations ahead of 3dfx.

Interestingly, limited memory bandwidth hinders even GeForce2 performance at high resolutions, leaving some of nVidia's lineup vulnerable to attack from a chip featuring both onboard T&L and faster effective memory throughput. Matching this description is ATI's new Radeon, which includes a host of innovative hardware features, including HyperZ (techniques for maximizing memory bandwidth) and T&L. And according to our review of the brand-new ATI Radeon 64MB DDR board in this month's Reviews section, it gives the older members of the GeForce family some competition with the speed and quality of its 3D rendering. ATI has also raised the specter of cards configured with multiple Radeon chips, which should produce an impressive display of gaming horsepower.

What's the bottom line? The breadth of chip choices and board manufacturers associated with the nVidia chips makes striking a balance between feature set and price easier with the GeForce line. ATI's Radeon chip will only be appearing in ATI boards.

The GeForce chip family now has four members: the original GeForce 256, the GeForce2 GTS, the GeForce2 MX, and the new GeForce2 Ultra. The GTS performs at roughly twice the speed of the original GeForce 256, with an upgraded raster engine and features like Digital TV support, onboard support for digital flat panels, and full-scene anti-aliasing, an advanced quality-enhancement technique. In their minimum 32MB configuration, GeForce2 GTS boards should be available for under $250, with 64MB boards costing $350 or more.

The new GeForce2 Ultra, which is now, or soon will be, available in cards from Creative Labs, Elsa, and Guillemot, is touted to offer twice the performance of the GeForce2 GTS. Among other features, it has 64MB of 460MHz double-data-rate (DDR) memory and new Detonator 3 drivers for a claimed performance boost of up to 50 percent. Cards based on the GeForce2 Ultra are expected to sell for around $499.

The MX version, only slightly faster than the GeForce 256, targets the corporate market and includes dual monitor output capabilities (analog and flat panel), plus enhanced color management. MX-based boards will ship in 16MB and 32MB configurations, and they should cost under $200 with dual monitor outputs, less with only one. For example, Elsa's Gladiac MX, with 32MB of RAM and one monitor output, lists for $179 and will likely sell for under $150.

Though manufacturers can tweak

The GeForce family no longer corners the onboard-T&L market. The ATI Radeon card, a recent entry from ATI that's based on its new Radeon chip, also features onboard T&L.

memory and processor clock speeds, most GeForce boards will be built around reference designs and will use nVidia-supplied drivers, minimizing the performance differences among them. Where they will differ is in hardware features and bundled software. For example, the 64MB Hercules 3D Prophet II GTS offers a negligible software bundle but includes S-Video and composite-video-output ports—nice if you have a large-screen television. It costs $355 for the "white-box" version. (White-box versions contain just the graphics card and drivers, but typically not the bundled software and hardware options offered in retail, branded versions.) Alternately, companies like Creative Labs and Elsa offer bare-bones boards with rich software bundles, complete with DVD decoder, color-management tools, and several bundled games. Two good examples are Creative Labs' 32MB 3D Blaster Annihilator 2, which sells for $299 direct, and Elsa's 32MB Gladiac.

Before settling on a card, note that while GeForce and Radeon boards will support both Direct3D and OpenGL, they won't support Glide, 3dfx's primary API. If you're addicted to games that only ship with Glide drivers, your only option is a 3dfx card.

MONEY WELL-SPENT: MEMORY AND MAKE

After chasing down a chip, you've got to settle on a card. If you can stretch your budget the extra $60 to $100 to buy a card with 64MB of memory, rather than just 32MB, do it. It might sound like overkill, but consider that 2x and 4x anti-aliasing consume memory in bunches, as do the 2,000x2,000-byte textures that today's chips can handle. And onboard memory will always be faster than AGP, even at 4x speeds. Furthermore, that 64MB is insurance that you won't miss out (in the near term) on features that game developers invent after you buy the board.

While we're on the subject, don't cut corners by simply buying the cheapest card you can find, either. Given the consolidation that takes place in this market, you want to buy from a manufacturer that will be around to supply upgrades for new operating systems and the inevitable driver patches.

BUYING FOR BUSINESS

If you're not a gamer and use your computer for Web surfing, e-mail, word processing, and the like, any low-end graphics card should suffice—even the embedded graphics on entry-level computers' motherboards.

Because entry-level graphics chips are now largely a commodity, most vendors have exited the mainstream corporate graphics market, with the notable exceptions of ATI and Matrox. Both companies offer aggressively priced products for sprucing up older PCs. The Matrox Millennium G200 and ATI Xpert 99 both come with 8MB of RAM and sell for about $60 each.

At the high end of the business-graphics market, Matrox was the first to support multiple monitors on one card, with the Millennium G400 ($150 for the white-box version with 32MB RAM).

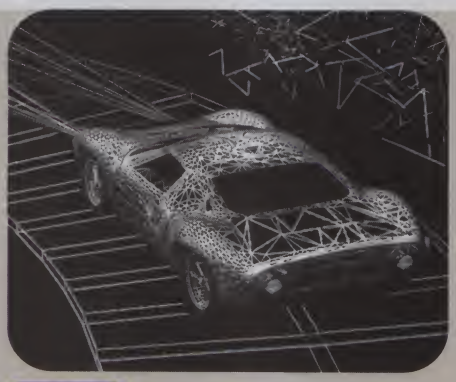
While Matrox is notable for introducing multiple-monitor support early on, ATI has a reputation for shipping multifunction graphics cards supported by sophisticated software. For example, its All-in-Wonder 128 Pro (approximately $130 with 16MB RAM) features a TV tuner with digital-VCR capabilities, MPEG-2 motion capture and video editing, accelerated DVD playback, and output to a television or VCR. Financial analysts, stockbrokers, and aggressive investors will appreciate the All-in-Wonder's ability to scan a closed-caption feed in real time and trigger an alert if specified words appear, or to store the entire feed as a text file with interspersed screen shots.

All of the boards in this class are more than sufficient for what used to be considered high-end 2D tasks—desktop publishing, image creation, and video editing. However, those interested in CAD or 3D animation and design need a board suitable for professional or workstation graphics, one that offers both higher performance and increased support for key applications such as AutoCAD, Softimage, and LightWave.

This market has traditionally been dominated by chips from 3Dlabs, Intense3D (recently purchased by 3Dlabs), and Evans & Sutherland, but nVidia is mounting a challenge with its Quadro chip and newly introduced *Quadro2 Pro* and

T&L's Role in 3D Rendering

Moving the handling of T&L, one of the stages involved in creating a more realistic 3D image, onto the graphics card and off the host system's CPU promises to turbocharge the realism and speed of 3D games. Here's a look at the four stages involved in generating 3D gameplay, to illustrate why T&L itself makes such a difference. The graphic "The Difference Onboard T&L Makes" illustrates the visual impact of onboard T&L.



Stage 1

Game Physics The first step manages the basic interactivity of the game. For instance, it stages the appearance of a hard left turn when players turn the wheel sharply, and determines things such as which obstacles appear and how competitive cars react.

Stage 2

Geometry Transform, Lighting and Clipping Games are 3D worlds composed of triangle-based models that have defined spatial relationships with other models. As a player moves through this 3D world, the computer continually positions and orients each object (transformation). It also applies a variety of light sources, as defined by the game developer (lighting). This ensures, for example, that a street lamp reflects off a car's hood. Finally, the computer removes any triangles or portions of triangles that lie outside of the scene (clipping).

Stage 3

Triangle Setup The computer processes the triangle-based information, identifying which X, Y coordinates actually appear on screen as pixels. Instructions regarding lighting, shading, perspective, and texturing are processed.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID TEICH

Quadro2 MXR chip sets.

Recognizing the need for stable drivers and aggressive application support, nVidia recently partnered with Elsa, giving the company access to Elsa's driver code and developers. In return, Elsa will sell Quadro2 Pro and Quadro2 MXR boards to the workstation market at aggressive prices: under $500 for the 32MB Quadro2 MXR-based Synergy III, and under $1,000 for the 32MB Quadro2 Pro-based Gloria III.

Things should be heating up in the business-graphics market around the time you read this. Matrox will ship its updated G450 graphics chip, with a new 256-bit

Stage 4

Rasterization Finally, the computer converts all of this information into the individual pixels, performing a range of techniques like shading, texture mapping, filtering, and anti-aliasing to produce lifelike results.

DualBus architecture, 360MHz RAMDAC, and Vibrant Color Quality^2 rendering architecture, and boards based on the GeForce2 MX and Radeon will arrive in quantity.

TAKING IT HOME

Virtually all of these gaming and general-business boards support DVD playback with some measure of onboard hardware support, such as motion compensation or inverse Discrete Cosine Transform (iDCT) decoding. This allows 350MHz Pentium II or faster computers equipped with a DVD-ROM drive to play DVD titles at full frame rate. With TV-out ports on the card, you can even watch the DVD video on your big-screen television.

Spielberg wannabes can also acquire video-capture capabilities with products such as Matrox's Marvel G400 TV (around $265 with 16MB of memory), which includes Avid's easy-to-use Cinema video editor.

Furthermore, due to the popularity of

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO GRAPHICS CARDS

digital video recorders like the TiVo, some vendors are adding digital VCR functionality to graphics cards with TV tuners. For example, when watching TV through ATI's All-in-Wonder, you can record any show to disk, pause and resume any program, create your own instant replay with zoom capabilities, then rewind or fast forward to the live stream.

Coming soon are boards that will decode the Digital TV (DTV) broadcasts currently showing in the top 30 U.S. markets. DTV offers better quality than analog broadcasts, as well as High Definition TV (HDTV) broadcasts such as *Monday Night Football*, and the promise of interactivity.

ON THE FLAT SCREEN

To the delight of many, prices on digital flat-panel displays are dropping. As a result, the installed base is rising. Though these monitors accept analog input, you get the best results by sending the computer's digital signal directly to the display. For that, you need a graphics card with digital output and,

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obviously, a flat-panel display that accepts digital input.

Most new flat-panel displays and graphics cards support the Transition Minimized Differential Signaling (TMDS) protocol implemented through a Digital Visual Interface (DVI) connector. When matching a new graphics card with an older flat-panel display, or a new flat-panel display to an older graphics card with digital output,

Upgrading your business graphics? Key contenders include boards based on the new G400 chip set, such as the Matrox Millennium G450, or cards using the Quadro2 MXR chip, such as the Elsa Synergy III.

you'll have a bit of work to do. That's because the industry worked through several transmission protocols and connector standards before adopting DVI and TMDS. In either of these cases, it's best to talk to a sales representative and identify your legacy equipment so that he or she can help you choose compatible hardware.

DRAW A WINNING CARD

As with any hardware purchase, scrutinize the card's warranty and technical support as diligently as you do its features. Most companies offer live technical support Monday through Friday during normal business hours, though some make you pay for the calls.

Most card vendors back their products with at least three-year warranties, with Creative Labs offering five and Elsa going the extra mile with six years. This is especially important for mainstream consumer and corporate users, who may actually use a graphics card for three years. Hard-core gamers will probably upgrade every 12 to 18 months, making lengthy warranties less important to them.

Regardless of which camp you fall into, game guru or business buyer, shop wisely, and today's hypercharged cards are sure to deliver the sensationally realistic—or merely silk-smooth—viewing experience you're looking for. ▼

SEARCH ENGINES

Looking for something? One of these tenacious tools can track it down.

10 Insightful Search Engines

BY DON WILLMOTT

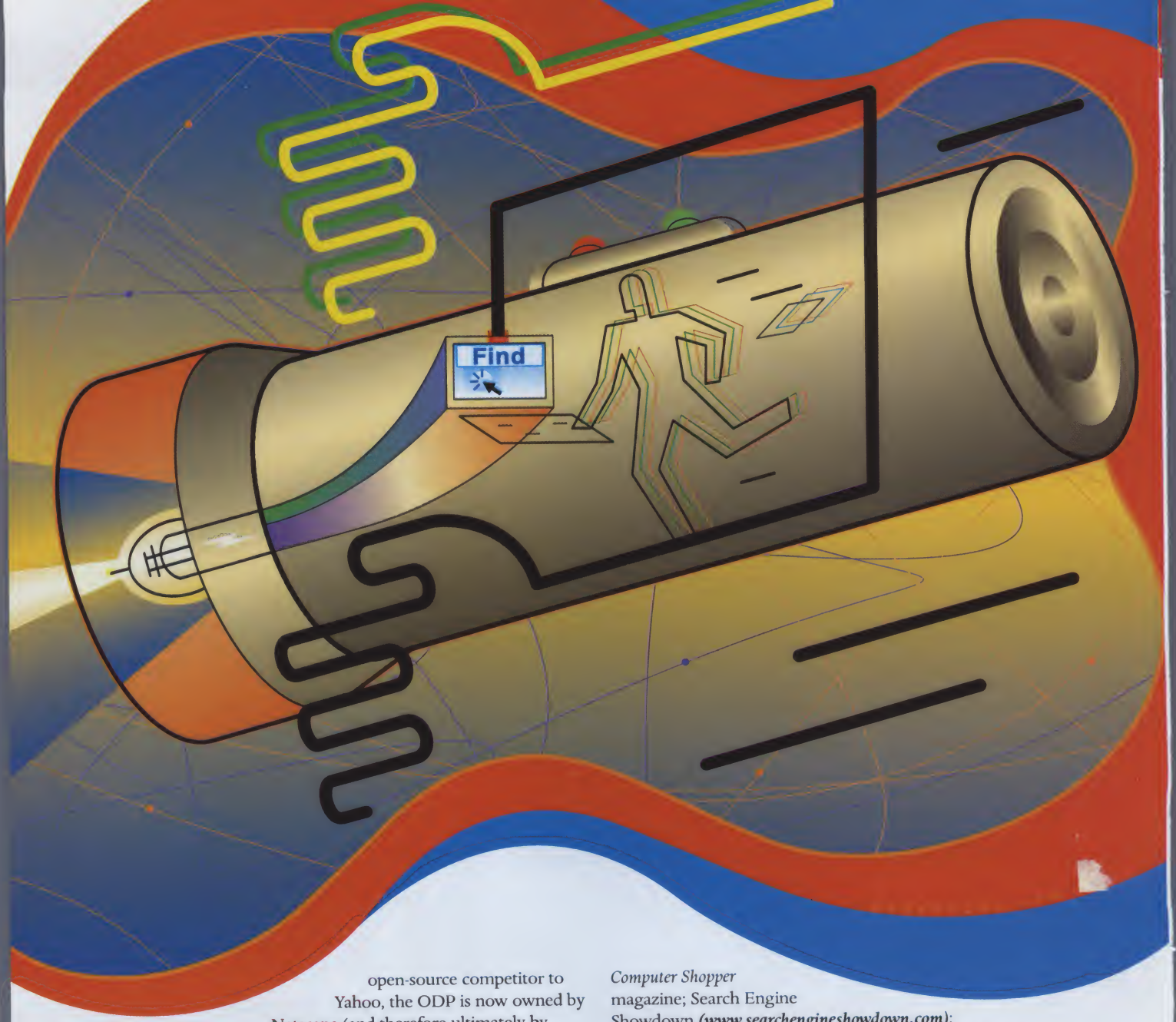
No one knows exactly how big the Web is, but it's estimated at more than a billion pages and projected to double by next year. It's no wonder finding what you want has become such a challenge.

Fortunately, an entire industry and a brand-new science have emerged to make effective Web searching easy. Yahoo is no longer the only available Web directory, nor AltaVista the only viable search engine. They've been joined by new tools and directories that present intriguing methods of classification, indexing, and query analysis.

Though the distinctions have blurred, three main types of search tools remain: directories, search engines, and metasearch tools. Directories such as Yahoo employ human editors to classify Web sites into a rigidly structured hierarchy of categories, resulting in a tightly focused but heavily edited view of the Web. Search engines send "spiders" or "crawlers" out across the Web to index all the text they see into searchable form. The result can be encyclopedic and intimidating because a search on a common term can yield thousands of results. Metasearch tools send your search to several directories and search engines at once to bring back a single list of results, removing duplicates and organizing the results by relevance.

Over time, Web directories and portals have added search engines, search engines have added portal features, and each has licensed the other's indexes to the point where many search tools—or at least the results they generate—begin to look alike. Indeed, five of the tools we looked at use Web categorization from the Open Directory Project *(www.dmoz.org)*, an ongoing volunteer-driven attempt to categorize the entire Internet. Originally started as an

ILLUSTRATION BY HANK OSUNA



open-source competitor to Yahoo, the ODP is now owned by Netscape (and therefore ultimately by America Online), and invites you to become a category editor whenever you perform a search on a category or topic that comes up empty. So far, 22,000 editors have taken responsibility for 240,000 categories with 1.5 million individual entries.

The latest search technologies take subtle and sophisticated approaches to searching that will make you forget the past's intimidating, and ultimately unusable, lists of results. Northern Light, for instance, automatically places results into categorized folders. Oingo introduces a "meaning-based search" that attempts to understand the exact nature of what you're searching for. Google's unique system judges the relevance of search results. Ask Jeeves accommodates plain-English search requests. Across the board, you see better and faster crawling and indexing, leading to more current and complete results.

The technologies are improving all the time, and you can use the Web to keep up with the latest innovations. Your best resources are SearchIQ ***(www.searchiq.com)*** from ZDNet, the parent company of *Computer Shopper* magazine; Search Engine Showdown ***(www.searchengineshowdown.com)***; and Search Engine Watch ***(www.searchenginewatch.com)***.

ALTAVISTA/RAGING SEARCH *(WWW.AV.COM)*

AltaVista's search engine has always been fast and powerful, but it's gone through so many owners and identities since its 1995 launch, the service has never quite known what it is. Things have settled down since CMGI bought it last summer, and a big overhaul last February put the emphasis back where it belongs—on the power of the search engine.

Today, AltaVista returns relevant results with great speed. For power users, its Advanced Search offers seemingly limitless opportunities to fine-tune searches, with a complete language of Boolean operators you can fiddle with all day. (See the sidebar "Search Tips and Tricks.") The site offers separate searches for images (see the sidebar "Picture-Perfect Searches"), MP3/audio, and video, and if you'd rather search by category (à la Yahoo), you'll find a Web

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directory on the opening screen. A Family Filter keeps objectionable content out of your search results.

Though our search on *Yellowstone* yielded 188,125 results, we also got suggestions for five other searches, including *Yellowstone National Park*, and an Internet keyword that led to the official park site.

AltaVista recently took a look at lean, mean search tools, such as Google and Fast Search, and decided to spin off a version of its search engine that looks and behaves the same way. Raging Search ***(www.raging.com)*** is as sparse as AltaVista is overcrowded. All you see is a search box. You can customize results by requesting a specific number of results per page, seeing complete or compact information, and activating the Family Filter. Like Google, Raging Search does link analysis to determine the most relevant results by counting the number of other sites that link to each result. In our tests, Raging Search's results were identical to AltaVista's.

ASK JEEVES (WWW.ASK.COM)

Ask Jeeves is the metasearch engine for those who don't know what a search engine is and probably don't want to know. Helpful Jeeves tackles any question you ask, and you can ask it in plain English. A team of editors has created canned answers to about 7 million questions. If you ask *Why is the sky blue?*, the answer is one click away. Interestingly, the same screen invites you to "see pictures of the celebrity Krzysztof Kieslowski," who directed the film *Blue*. If your question is more obscure, the site asks you follow-up questions for clarification.

Answering questions with more questions can be frustrating, but eventually you'll get to the information you need. Asking the site *What do you know about Yellowstone?* brings back direct links to maps, Britannica.com content, the national park itself, and outdoor activities at the park. The site also delivers three relevant Web search results using the Direct Hit popularity engine to determine which related sites users access most often, linking to results at other search engines and directories such as AltaVista and Excite. The answers to your questions will likely be somewhere on that screen. Still not satisfied? You can post a question to other Ask Jeeves users in any of 11 categories in the Answer Point area. You can also answer posted questions.

Ask Jeeves is especially popular among students. And a family-friendly version called Ask Jeeves for Kids ***(www.ajkids.com)*** is the ultimate homework helper. While both Ask Jeeves and Ask Jeeves for Kids may be somewhat simplistic for Web power users, they're both great services for Internet novices.

EXCITE (WWW.EXCITE.COM)

The directory is just one small part of Excite, so the portal tries to incorporate many of its services into its search results. For instance, a search for *"Ford Explorer"* brings back not only the usual Web pages, but also a column of relevant "quick results," including a photo of the SUV, its suggested price, and a link to a page of specifications, all chosen by human editors.

This type of search result debuted in July with the launch of Excite's Precision Search features. The precision starts when you decide what to search: the Web, categories (powered by LookSmart), news (350 sources are queried), photos (see "Picture-Perfect Searches"), or audio/video. Web search results come back 10 at a time, and you can see results either by document title or by URL. Excite is also attempting to use Google-like link analysis to ensure the most relevant results float to the top.

The news search returns relevant stories from Web sources and newswires. You can even search 20,000 recent news photos, a compelling feature that provides breaking-news photos within minutes of a major news event.

Like Fast Search, Excite has an advanced feature that lets you identify search words the result must have, should have, or must not have. It's an easier way to construct a Boolean-style query. But despite the advanced capabilities, Excite will win the most fans with its quick results. There's no faster way to get relevant information from a straightforward search.

FAST SEARCH/ALL THE WEB, ALL THE TIME (WWW.ALLTHEWEB.COM)

From a small country comes a big Web index. Fast Search, which also licenses its technology to other sites, came from Norway in mid-1999, claiming to have the Web's biggest index. It's since been eclipsed by Google, but the company projects that it will have indexed a total of 1 billion Web pages over the next year.

Rather than burden you with Boolean logic (see

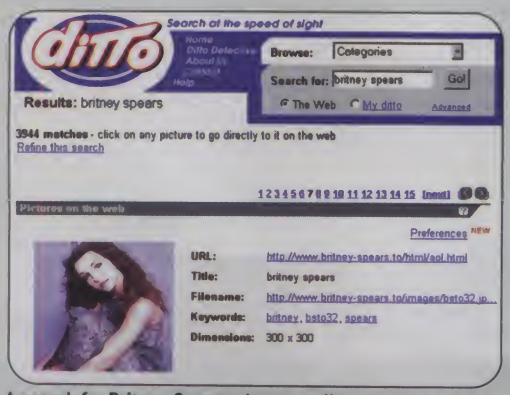
Picture-Perfect Searches

The Web was invented to help people share visual information, and yet it seems next to impossible to search for anything online other than text. Where are all the pictures? Although Excite, Lycos, Yahoo, or any other directory or search engine can lead you to countless Britney Spears Web sites, how about a tool that can present you with nothing but photos of Britney?

The best photo search tool is ditto.com. Using a clever combination of Web crawlers and human editors who check every photo the crawlers find for quality and objectionable content and then categorize it, the site presents a high-quality collection that's usually spot-on. A search for a Cathay Pacific 747 returned two results, and there were countless Britney Spears photos available.

AltaVista, first to make an appearance in image searching, offers separate search tools for images and video clips. Like ditto.com, AltaVista takes you from a photo search result directly to the site where the photo came from, but it also adds a "Similar" feature. Click this to see other photos like the one you've selected. It can lead to hours of amusement because its definition of "similar" can be somewhat loose. A photograph of a bearded Ben Affleck returned not only photos of other bearded actors but also a photo of Joan Collins. Go figure. AltaVista returned two Cathay Pacific 747s and about 300 Britneys.

Excite has a special photo search that scans 750,000 images in its user-driven Webshots communities, but it doesn't quite compete. It didn't come up with any Cathay Pacific 747s, although it did return plenty of images of 747s in general. A search for photos of Donny Osmond returned just one fuzzy snapshot of a toddler who was labeled a "Donny Osmond lookalike." A search for Britney Spears was, of course, much more successful. ▼



A search for Britney Spears photos at ditto.com turned up close to 4,000 matches.

"Search Tips and Tricks"), Fast Search lets you search for all of the words, any of the words, or the exact phrase. No matter which way you search, the first results you get tend to reflect exactly what you typed in. Advanced search tools let you specify whether certain words or phrases should, must, or must not be in the results, and an optional filter reduces offensive content.

Fast Search includes a separate search for content compliant with the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). Searches for FTP data, MP3 files, and multimedia content redirect you to Lycos to complete the searches.

Fast Search takes its name seriously. It's one of only a few search engines (Google is another) that's so confident of its speed it reports how long its searches take. But it seems to be splitting hairs to tell you its search on the word *Yellowstone* took 0.0530 seconds, when you compare it to Google's 0.23 seconds.

With all this speed, however, comes a lack of finesse. Fast Search is less successful than others at returning results in order of relevance. Three of the top 10 results for a search for *"Ford Explorer"* led to a site that sells children's car seats. None of the top 10 was from Ford, although two led to comparison charts at Isuzu's site. Other search engines and all other directories were more precise on the same search.

Search Tips and Tricks

CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON

A directory search is ideal for getting the lay of the land when you're researching a subject. A search engine is most useful when you know exactly what you're looking for and just don't know where to find it. Trying to track down an old high-school friend? Use AltaVista or Northern Light, not Yahoo. Always be as specific as possible from the start. Don't search for *Malibu* when you know you want results for *"Chevrolet Malibu."*

USE QUOTATION MARKS

The single most effective thing you can do to improve the quality of search-engine results is to put quote marks around anything you type in as a phrase. If you request *"River Phoenix,"* you'll get results only about the actor. Request *River Phoenix,* and you may see results about Arizona waterways.

LEARN BOOLEAN LOGIC

You may be intimidated by advanced Web searching that requires Boolean operators such as **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**, **=**, **+**, and **-**. At times, you may feel you have to learn programming just to get started. The truth is, most search engines have evolved to a point where a deep understanding of such syntax isn't necessary for typical searches. However, it's worth taking 20 minutes to familiarize yourself with simple Boolean logic if you search the Web every day. The best tutorial is in AltaVista's Advanced Search section.

SEARCH BY PROXIMITY

Trying to find out how earthquakes damage highways? You can try searching on phrases such as *"earthquake highway damage,"* but you'll come away empty-handed. Instead, use AltaVista's proximity search, which lets you request *earthquakes NEAR highways.* You'll get a treasure trove of results where the two words show up in text within 10 words of each other.

SEARCH AND SEARCH AGAIN

One way to zoom in on that one perfect result is to search again only on the results of a preliminary search. Northern Light automates the process by putting results into easy-to-manage folders, and Oingo's meaning-based search gives you a second chance to tell it what you really meant if the results are all over the map.

ARCHIVE YOUR RESULTS

More and more Web-based services that started out as simple bookmark managers now help you archive Web pages and search through them again later. The best example is Backflip ***(www.backflip.com)***. Every time you find a Web page you like, you "backflip" it so you can search for its contents later. It's a great way to save pages for later reference.

GOOGLE *(WWW.GOOGLE.COM)*

Google first emerged from a Stanford University lab in 1998, and launched officially in September 1999. In just a year, the search engine has become wildly popular, and it reached new levels of success when Yahoo chose it to provide the results for its search requests.

Google claims to have 560 million fully indexed pages and another 500 million partially indexed, but that's not what makes it so popular. The key to Google's success is in the relevance of its search results, achieved by its unique PageRank technology. PageRank evaluates how many other pages link to the pages in its search results and assumes the pages with the most inbound links are probably the best. The results prove the theory works.

Google is so confident in the relevance of its results, it has an I'm Feeling Lucky button that takes you directly to the page that comes up first in its search. Google has an almost psychic ability to get it right the first time. The first result for *Yellowstone* was the official Yellowstone page from the National Park Service. The PageRank system also guarantees spam- and bias-resistant results.

Google accommodates Boolean searches, and if you'd rather browse through categories, the site features the same Open Directory categorization used by other search sites, such as AltaVista, Lycos, and Oingo. If you've never tried Google, it's worth some experimentation. You'll be surprised at how dead-on its top search results can be.

IXQUICK *(WWW.IXQUICK.COM)*

Ixquick was rated tops by ZDNet's SearchIQ, beating every other directory and search engine. This metasearch tool applies your search query to 14 search engines, returning results by evaluating how relevant each of those tools considered the results.

A search for *Yellowstone* yields a top six-star rating. Each star represents a top-10 result at another search tool. Ixquick even offers direct links to those other search tools so you can see what their top 10 results look like. All 89 results on this search were relevant, and no duplicate results were listed—a significant accomplishment, considering most metacrawlers are bedeviled by redundant results.

Beyond simple Web searching, Ixquick lets you search for MP3 files, photos, and news from six sources. You can set up searches in plain English or with Boolean operators, but typically, just a few keywords do the trick.

Ixquick is for scrupulous searchers who suspect they may be missing something if they aren't thorough. By casting such a wide net and collating results from so many places, Ixquick pretty much guarantees you've left no stone unturned.

LYCOS *(WWW.LYCOS.COM)*

Lycos started out in 1994 as a Carnegie Mellon-developed Web crawler and search engine, but since then it's evolved into a full-fledged Internet portal

with more than a dozen affiliated sites. Like Excite and Yahoo, it lets you search by category (it uses the Open Directory categorizations for top-level results) or search query. You get several kinds of results immediately: popular results (some are content pages created by Lycos editors, and some are identified by Direct Hit), Web-site matches (Lycos uses Fast Search), related news articles, and, in true portal style, related shopping links.

The results page also tells you what other people who did the same search also searched for, giving you a quick way to test another search strategy if you don't like your results (and showing you just how bad some people are at spelling). The site has separate FTP, MP3, and rich media searches from Fast Search as well.

Lycos also features an advanced search with Boolean operators and menus that let you specify the kinds of content you want to search, such as dictionary, home pages, and music. Lycos also has a family filter called SearchGuard that keeps objectionable material out of your results.

There's nothing outstanding about the Lycos search tools, but if you have a personalized page at Lycos or spend a lot of time within the Lycos network, you don't have to leave to accomplish simple searching tasks.

NORTHERN LIGHT (WWW.NORTHERNLIGHT.COM)

A tremendously powerful search engine with unparalleled capabilities and resources, Northern Light claims to have indexed about 300 million Web pages. The site's most obvious strength is its ability to sort your search results into thematic folders, making sense out of hundreds or thousands of results, and helping you focus your search. Search for *"Ford Explorer,"* and you get back folders labeled "Automobile Dealers," "SUVs," and "Cars & Driving," among others. Even more compelling are the site's Special Collections—6,900 journals, books, transcript sources, and newswires that are searchable nowhere else on the Web. You have to buy many of the results you find here, but if you're doing important research, the $2 to $5 is minimal, and you can set up a corporate account.

Northern Light also lets you search specifically on business resources, investment resources, and geographical directories. You can conduct all these searches using plain-English queries, full Boolean searches, or a series of exclusions that let you specify the types of results you want, such as those only from commercial sites, college newspapers, or broadcast transcripts.

Northern Light also has a Search Alert service that lets you register topics of interest. When the site's crawlers find new content that gets indexed into those topics, you get an e-mail message. Businesspeople tracking their companies or the competition will appreciate this feature.

OINGO (WWW.OINGO.COM)

Oingo's search results page doesn't look anything like the others. Oingo strives to get a complete understanding of what you're asking for before it considers its job done.

At the top of the results page, you see the words you typed next to a selection box filled with possible interpretations of the search. When you typed *Explorer,* were you referring to Windows Explorer? Explorers like Christopher Columbus? Boy Scouts? You can pick one option and search again more narrowly, or you can look at category hits (powered by Open Directory) on the lower left. Your search term is highlighted among the many results, and if there's a conceptual match, a lightbulb appears next to that listing, indicating a "meaning hit." On the right are Web-page search results (powered by AltaVista).

A search for *"Ford Explorer"* at Oingo turned up results specific to the SUV.

A search for *"defense mechanisms"* yielded a top category hit from Encyclopedia.com along with 10 Web-page hits; the first two were quite relevant. When we searched for *"Ford Explorer,"* Oingo asked us to refine our meaning for both words, and when we did, it returned excellent results about the SUV model and nothing else.

This kind of meaning-based search lets you get to focused search results in an interactive, multistep way, without using Boolean search terms. A team of editors compiles the meanings, and lexicographers create the Oingo Lexicon used to parse search terms into their possible connotations. The end result: Searches may take a little more time, but they're guaranteed to return targeted results.

YAHOO (WWW.YAHOO.COM)

Yahoo is the best place on the Web to get the big picture when you start to research a topic. Whether you're looking for *"London hotels," "circus elephants,"* or *"Whitney Houston,"* you'll get a good overview, organized by human editors, within seconds. You won't find every Web page in Yahoo's categorized results, only those the editors have manually placed there. Below those search results, Yahoo presents the results of a complete Web search. In an effort to upgrade that search, Yahoo last July replaced Inktomi with Google as its advanced search results provider. Put everything together, and you have an unbeatable directory/search-engine combo.

As Yahoo has expanded far beyond its original directory to become a huge portal and complete Internet experience, its search results have grown accordingly. A search for *"Ford Explorer"* returns not only basic information, but also a photo, classified ads, a related message board, five Explorer clubs, and companies offering car loans or insurance quotes. News stories related to your search are just one click away.

You'll also find dozens of mini-Yahoos devoted to specific interests such as cars and astrology, not to mention Yahooligans ***(www.yahooligans.com)***, a separate family-friendly Web directory aimed at children. Many of Yahoo's 40 million monthly visitors consider the site synonymous with searching the Web. Although that may have been the case in 1995, it's certainly not true today. Nevertheless, you can get a grasp on just about any topic by starting a search here.

FUTURE SEARCHES

In time, technology licensing will make search results look more and more alike. And search-engine designers will focus their attention not on the crawling and indexing of the Web but on understanding the subtle meanings in your search queries, as Oingo does with its meaning-based search. If search engines are better able to understand what it is you really want to know, they'll be able to narrow their searches from the get-go, bring back more relevant results, and do so even faster than they do today. ▼

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PC/TV CONVERGENCE

Media Merger

The convergence of the Internet, the PC, and television are making your PC more entertaining and your TV more interactive. But the future form and function of these combined media are still very much up in the air.

Let's face it: It'll be a while before television becomes as interactive as it was when Carol Anne took up residence inside the family console in 1982's *Poltergeist*. And given the outcome of that encounter, perhaps it's just as well. But the PC is changing TV, with new interactive products, services, and spins rolling out as Internet and traditional TV broadcast services converge.

But where will these advances take television, and how will they affect the way you use a PC? No one knows for sure.

Some companies are banking on "personalized television," which promises to let us watch our favorite shows whenever we want, regardless of broadcast schedule. Many companies have invested millions in "enhanced television," which delivers additional Web-based content in tandem with a program broadcast on standard network television. Still others have staked their claim on "Internet-enabled television," services and compatible hardware that allow users to compute, communicate, and surf the Web, all from the comfort of their living-room couches.

BY ASA SOMERS

These developments are possible thanks largely to technological advances of PCs and the Net, and are complementing the most widely distributed entertainment platform of all, the television. But current emerging TV technologies are so huge, fractious, and fluctuating that it's difficult to find one characteristic that unites them all.

Most industry observers agree that television is generally becoming more interactive, providing viewers with more to do than simply soak up entertainment and reach for the bean dip. And the Web is becoming more entertaining, with many new sites that enable you to view short animations and films from your PC. Beyond that, however, it's anybody's guess.

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PC/TV CONVERGENCE

FORMAT FUSION?

Not long ago, it seemed that the television and the PC were on a crash course, with one destined to be subsumed by the other. Microsoft Corp.'s fledgling WebTV and other interactive set-top boxes, which were beginning to offer Web browsing, e-mail, and other features traditionally found on the desktop, threatened to obviate the consumer's need for a computer.

Of course, that was before anyone actually *tried* WebTV. The initial reviews weren't exactly charitable. Performance was less than perfect, compatible programming was limited, and the service was slow to catch on. Despite initial flaws, WebTV and its competitors have matured and found a somewhat limited market. But analysts say this was because they offered cheap Web access, and not because they delivered particularly compelling features.

This is not yet interactive TV; WebTV-type devices more closely resemble Internet-enabled televisions. So while WebTV and other set-top boxes provide low-cost alternatives for newbies itching to get on the Web, the PC has strengths that a television can never hope to match.

And that has led to a sort of détente between the two appliances, in which neither gains superiority over the other in the battleground of home entertainment. It's possible that, while watching television and computing on a PC may overlap somewhat in the future, true convergence may never happen. "We don't see the TV and the PC converging," says Gerry Kaufhold, a senior analyst for Cahners In-Stat, a market-research firm. "We see them going their own merry ways simultaneously."

He describes watching television as a "lean-back" experience, referring to the relaxed attitude users take when "interfacing" with the tube. "You want the remote control just to help you navigate," he says. "So to read your e-mail is easy, but the 'lean-forward' experience of writing e-mail is more fun on a PC."

And it's feasible that something as simple as the way we sit in front of an appliance could determine how it will be used. "I think the wireless keyboards [used with today's set-top boxes] will hamper the development of text-heavy applications on your TV," Kaufhold says. "I've heard of people typing an e-mail and accidentally changing the channel."

He, like others, believes that content creation will remain the purview of the PC. Users will handle video editing, word processing, personal accounting, and writing e-mail on the PC, primarily because of ergonomic advantages. Meanwhile, for most people, the television will remain the natural information portal.

So where there is overlap between the two, the television is likely to take on some of the functions of the PC in areas such as e-commerce and reading e-mail. But rather than offering the total Internet, your television is more likely to offer features tied to advertising or to programs you're currently watching, says Kaufhold. "I think the interactivity of the Internet is what's coming to your TV," he says.

TWO BOXES IN ONE ROOM

And that's starting to happen now. Some 44 million people in the United States have watched television and surfed the Internet simultaneously, according to market-

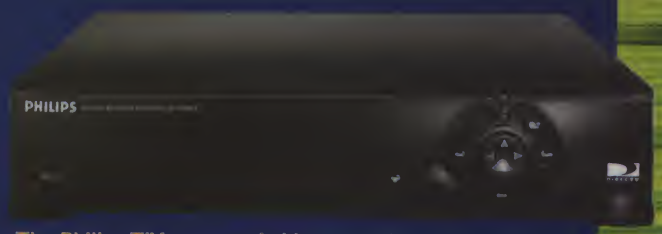
Time Keeps on Shifting

Ho-hum VCRs are being upstaged by new devices dubbed personal video recorders (PVRs), which save video to a hard drive rather than a tape. And it's becoming clear that "time-shifted viewing," as some analysts call this technology, promises to make a far greater impact on television than did the VCR.

Leading the charge are TiVo ***(www.tivo.com)*** and ReplayTV ***(www.replaytv.com)***, set-top boxes that enable you to record and replay live broadcasts. These PVRs range in price from $300 to $600 and can store from 10 to 30 hours of video. Each set-top box features an internal modem that downloads broadcast-schedule information, so you can instruct the device to search for and record any program that meets criteria such as title, keyword, or an actor's name.

Time-shifting technology portends huge implications for television as a whole, says P.J. McNealy, senior analyst at GartnerGroup. One of the biggest short-term effects will be how advertisers market their products. Set-top boxes allow users to watch what they want, when they want—and skip the ads. "We're no longer watching in prime time and no longer watching ads," says McNealy. "So the rating system of who pays what for advertising goes out the window."

And the fact that set-top boxes are inherently digital has benefits that no VCR could ever match. By the time you read this, ReplayTV will have introduced a service that allows users to program their set-top boxes remotely via a personalized Web page. McNealy also expects users will soon be able to send instructions to their set-top boxes by e-mail, even from cell phones or wireless PDAs.



The Philips TiVo personal video recorder

One factor that will broaden the technology's appeal is the trend toward packaging it with digital television or satellite services. For instance, Microsoft recently announced its UltimateTV service, which bundles the interactivity of WebTV with a time-shifting set-top box from RCA Thompson and satellite service from DirecTV.

Initially, price will remain an obstacle to wide consumer acceptance of the technology. But in the end, McNealy predicts that people will make the buy. "People will pay for entertainment. After all, entertainment is king," he says.

research firm Dataquest. And a study by Showtime Networks and Paul Kagan Associates reveals that nearly 23 million U.S. homes have a PC and a TV set in the same room. Numbers such as these smell like tasty opportunities to many content providers, who have developed a means of enhancing the TV-watching experience without introducing any particularly novel—or confusing—technologies.

This type of enhanced television requires that viewers use a traditional analog set for live video and a Web-connected PC for Internet-based interactivity. If you wonder how this experience would play out, consider last year's Super Bowl programming produced by Go.com, Disney's Internet operation. Go.com delivered three "channels" of content on ABC's and ESPN's Web sites (as well as its own) that was designed for users to access on a PC while watching the big game on television.

One channel featured an interactive game for participants to play, while a second channel featured customized data "pushed" to the Internet from a central network control room in New York. On any given play, Go.com's production team sent out photos, graphics, or factoids pertinent to the action in the televised football game. A third channel provided live stats, allowing users to query a huge database and receive personalized and up-to-the-second statistics on any aspect of the game, the players, or the teams.

Sports broadcasts represent a natural opportunity for enhanced television. "There are lots of stats and plenty of breaks in the action when users can check the computer screen," says Eric Handler, Go.com's director of communications. The site's enhanced-TV presentation of the Super Bowl drew an estimated 650,000 people.

DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL

Not only are lots of people tuning in to these enhanced-TV broadcasts, but many also are sticking around for a while. Go.com also produces an enhanced-TV version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* that is available online only during the broadcast of the show on ABC. The interactive game lets users compete against the contestant as well as friends and online acquaintances.

"Enhanced TV is meant not to divert viewers from the traditional telecast, including commercials, but rather to enhance their experience and keep them there longer," Handler says. The average connect time of online *Millionaire* participants is 41 minutes, he says.

Of course, the simultaneous Web content might be seen as less of an enhancement and more of a distraction—especially if you're an advertiser watching eyeballs being drawn away from your expensive 30-second TV spot. It seems logical that advertisers would resist this type of distraction.

But Handler says they have embraced this type of marketing platform because the network can customize the ads to fit a company's specific needs. He cites as an example a feature Go.com has debuted with *Millionaire* in which the online broadcast offers bonus questions that can only be answered correctly if the viewer stays tuned to the TV commercials.

Producing this type of interactive broadcast requires plenty of behind-the-scenes manpower. For instance, Go.com created 4,000 individual graphics for the Super Bowl's push channel alone. And because the content programming is live, a team of at least a dozen people are on hand to crank out the enhanced-TV information to specific channels, Handler says.

Meanwhile, a great amount of back-end database programming and proprietary software goes into keeping information current to the second. Go.com's

RADIO PLAYS

While video-streaming companies are struggling with bandwidth limitations, a different kind of convergence—that of the Internet and AM/FM radio—thrives. Thanks to the Web, you're no longer limited to a handful of lame local stations that play the same six songs all day long. Instead, you can tune into thousands of radio stations across the world that are streaming programming over the Internet.

While big sites such as sonicnet.com try to be everything to all audiences, smaller sites target more specific listeners. Garageband.com, for example, focuses on unsigned acts, while myplay ***(www.myplay.com)*** is more like Napster in that it allows users to store and share music files online.

Countless independent radio stations maintain their own Web sites, but there's clearly strength in numbers, so most list with as many Web-radio directories as possible. Internet Radio List ***(www.internetradiolist.com)***, BroadcastAmerica.com, and Radio Directory ***(www.radiodirectory.com)*** are a few such compendiums.

With new startups hitting the Web every day, consolidation is becoming commonplace. Last year, Yahoo purchased Broadcast.com for $5 billion in stock to create Yahoo Broadcast ***(www.broadcast.com)***, a one-stop portal for music, videos, and audio books. And in June, 3Com Corp. entered the Web-radio space by buying Kerbango ***(www.kerbango.com)***, a "tuning service" with links to more than 5,000 radio stations.

Although most Web-based radio broadcasts work with RealPlayer or Windows Media Player software, some sites work only with proprietary plug-ins. ClickRadio ***(www.clickradio.com)*** and Hiwire ***(www.hiwire.com)***, for example, both require you first to download a navbar that lets you choose and manage your favorite radio streams. Meanwhile, several shareware radio players, such as Shoutcast ***(www.shoutcast.com)*** and UltraPlayer ***(www.ultraplayer.com)***, are enjoying wide distribution.

The Kerbango Internet Radio

Even hardware is getting Webby. Kerbango made waves earlier this year with its Internet Radio, a device that plugs into a phone line and provides instant access to thousands of Web-based radio programs without requiring a PC. PenguinRadio ***(www.penguinradio.com)*** is developing a similar device, and ZapMedia ***(www.zapmedia.com)*** recently announced its ZapStation, an all-in-one home system that plays CDs, DVDs, MP3s, and Internet radio.

And Web-based radio will soon be available for wireless devices, such as cell phones and PDAs, thanks to efforts from PenguinRadio and another startup called Savos ***(www.savos.com)***.

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6000	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	128/10/24X/56k	2999.99
6000	Pentium® III 700	15 TFT	128/18/DVD/56k	CALL
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600X	Pentium® III 500	13.3 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2299.99
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4340DVD	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	64/12/DVD/56k	2199.99
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Model	Processor	Display	Ram/HD/CD/Mod	Price
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enhanced *Monday Night Football* broadcasts, for example, allow the user to click on a player's stats immediately after he scores a touchdown, and the numbers will actually reflect that touchdown.

Another huge opportunity for the networks to put this back-end technology to the test will be during this year's presidential elections. In fact, some have already dubbed 2000 as the first campaign and election to be Webcast. (For more information on enhanced-TV coverage of the presidential elections, see Net Now in this issue's News section.)

TEST-TUBE PROGRAMMING

It's the big media companies with good synchronicity in the Web space that are really driving the enhanced-TV market. Warner Bros. has also been on the cutting edge of this, as well as Web-only video programming, with its Entertaindom.com subsidiary.

Entertaindom.com debuted about a year ago as a sort of online laboratory where new content could be tested and then later repurposed for use on network television or other media. One such program is *The God & Devil Show,* a weekly animated talk show in which both God and the Devil interview a celebrity and then let viewers decide whether the person goes to heaven or hell.

"More and more people are beginning to view the Web as a powerful development tool," says Kevin Tsujihara, executive vice president of new media at Warner Bros. "We use it to build, develop, and understand an audience."

Entertaindom.com also produces a show called *15 Seconds of Fame,* in which participants submit 15 seconds of video showing them performing extraordinary acts. Viewers vote for the "Star of the Day," and monthly winners take home $15,000. It's all part of an effort to generate user-created content and boost interactivity, Tsujihara says.

The Web is also a place where more daring content can be offered with less risk. Entertaindom.com is sending up a Web-only test balloon called *The Oblongs,* an animated series about a twisted family that lives near a nuclear dump. The company is helping develop the series for eventual broadcast on the WB network, but is also using the Web as a laboratory to find out if some of the material is deemed objectionable.

Although video-over-the-Web programming is best enjoyed by early adopters with broadband connections, bandwidth may not be the primary obstacle to broad acceptance. "The hardest part on the Web is breaking through the clutter," says Tsujihara.

PC/TV CONVERGENCE

With its hands comfortably in Warner Bros.' deep pockets, Entertaindom.com presumably has the cash to weather the tough times. Lots of smaller startups relying on an exclusively broadband-connected audience face an uphill battle, and many have experienced trouble.

So until broadband Internet access becomes more widespread, video-over-the-Web will likely remain a niche market. In this case, the television has proved its superiority in the realm of full-motion video programming.

I'D LIKE TO BUY A TOWEL

The closest thing to truly interactive television, and perhaps the most convergent type of technology to date, are the rather clunky set-top boxes, such as WebTV or the recently launched AOLTV, which have so far served mainly as low-cost PC alternatives. But there's new hope for this type of service.

As picture-in-picture technology advances, crossover applications—such as the ability to chat live with friends while watching a broadcast or scouring the Internet Movie Database to read the résumé of an actor you're currently watching—hold major promise. Money makes the Web go round, however, and it's interactive commerce that could eventually get things moving.

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According to a recent survey by *Red Herring* magazine, buying products through interactive television doesn't yet interest a great many people, at least in the United States. Only 12 percent of respondents listed TV-based commerce as either "extremely interesting" or "very interesting." Some analysts are skeptical of its feasibility, much less its appeal.

Nevertheless, TV-based commerce is taking other parts of the world by storm. In October of last year, British Sky Broadcasting (BSkyB), a satellite-based digital TV network owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., launched an interactive-TV service called Open. Offering a number of value-added features—such as stock quotes, online banking, and interactive games, as well as home shopping services—Open counts 1.6 million members who use the service at least once a week.

According to figures provided by the company, more than 10 percent of Open-enabled households have made at least one purchase since launch, and a full one-third of those have made repeat purchases. And this is all out of a full BSkyB membership of around 4.5 million.

As In-Stat's Kaufhold describes it, during Open-compatible programming, a translucent watermark occasionally appears on the screen. "[Users] can click on this and order products from the show. They could, for instance, order Ally McBeal's dress or Frasier's tie from the TV by pushing a button."

To some, this kind of couch-potato commerce may seem like the Holy Grail of TV interactivity, but in the United States, digital TV services such as BSkyB are not available yet. Being able to implement this kind of application with standard analog TV signals would greatly widen its appeal.

TeleCruz Technology is developing a means to do just that. The company manufactures integrated chips that provide a full interactive-TV experience without the need for a set-top box. As a result, content providers can embed small "triggers" in the analog airwaves beamed out to TV sets that will initiate an interactive session with viewers who click on icons that pop up onscreen.

This kind of application already exists over selected cable services, thanks to Wink Communications' electronic-commerce service. Wink is still pretty clumsy and requires a set-top box, but this and TeleCruz's platforms, along with similar services to be included with WebTV, AOLTV, and others, point to the future availability of armchair shopping.

PC OR TV?

But is this what we really want our televisions to do? And where will the PC fit in?

It's all up in the air. Observers do agree that interactivity will increase substantially, even if they're not quite sure how much. Five years from now, Kaufhold predicts, most televisions will have some interactivity built into them; others are not so sanguine.

The bottom line is that your TV set is almost certain to gain some of the capabilities of your PC. To what degree the two interact and even possibly converge remains uncertain. You'll just have to stay tuned. ▼

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Sites to Be Thankful For

Got turkey? You bet! Find all you need for Thanksgiving on the Web, from the perfect holiday recipes to light-up pilgrims for your lawn.

by Kevin Savetz

What could be better than a holiday synonymous with food and feasting? Thanksgiving, one of the oldest American celebrations, has found its way into cyberspace. So whether you're looking for a killer pumpkin-pie recipe, need basting advice, or want to learn more about pilgrims and Indians, you'll be thanking technology for making your Turkey Day preparations a breeze. And, yes, you can even buy your turkey online.

Ever wonder how many feathers the average turkey has? How fast a wild turkey can run? Or what to call that fleshy growth that flops over a turkey's beak? If so, take a turkey trivia quiz. The answers to these and other timeless turkey questions can be found at the **Turkey Trivia** page ***(www.care2.com/community/trivia/trivia_9911.html)***. It's a festive place to get into the spirit of the day, and all that thinking is sure to work up an appetite.

The National Turkey Federation

Whether you're a professional chef or your idea of cooking is opening a can of jellied cranberry sauce, you'll find a virtual cornucopia of recipes online. **ThanksgivingRecipe.com** serves up hundreds of concoctions, ranging from Apple and Onion Dressing to Yummy Yam Casserole. ***Butterball's*** Web outlet ***(www.butterball.com)*** is a meaty site stuffed with turkey-centric recipes that will help you whip up the perfect holiday meal. And sites like **Epicurious** ***(www.epicurious.com)*** and **Food.com** serve up hundreds of unique holiday-themed recipes. The **National Turkey Federation** ***(www.eatturkey.com/consumer/thanks.html)*** offers more than 500 recipes, cooking tips, and more tantalizing turkey trivia.

Vegetarians certainly will be thankful for **Vegetarianrecipe.com's** bountiful offering of creative meatless options, including Tofu Turkey and Easy Vegan Gravy. And the Thanksgiving Feast page at **Veggies Unite** ***(www.vegweb.com/food/events/index-thanksgiving.shtml)*** has enough bird-free recipes to stuff even the pickiest eater.

So you've invited a house full of guests, but your kitchen isn't up to the Turkey Day task? You'll find copious quantities of cookware and cutlery at **Cooking.com.** Be sure to arm yourself with all the necessary tools, including a set of sharp knives (these might serve a dual purpose if the family gets out of hand), roasting pans, and poultry tools. You might also take a quick click through the **AllRecipes.com Culinary Store** ***(www.culinarystore.com)***, which has a Thanksgiving area stocked with basting equipment, cookie cutters, and pie-making supplies.

All the nifty kitchen gadgetry in the world won't do any good if you don't understand the basics of roasting and carving the beast. **Learn2.com's** Food and Drink section offers helpful tutorials on roasting the bird, carving it correctly, and making sure the kids impress the company with an impeccable table setting ***(www.learn2.com/06/0608/0608.asp)***. Also check out the titles in the Learn2 bookstore, including volumes on garnishing and repairing kitchen mistakes.

Not the domestic-goddess type, but want to look like you are? If slaving over a hot oven all day isn't your thing, a couple of cool clicks and a precooked bird can be at your door in almost no time. Smoked turkeys are available from **Ozark Mountain Family** ***(www.ozarkfamily.com)***, **Burge's** ***(www.smokedturkeys.com)***, **Ham I Am** ***(www.hamiam.com)***, and **Glenwood Smoked Products** ***(www.glenwoods.com)***, among other sites. You can even order a ready-made vegetarian Tofurky feast from **Turtle Island Foods** ***(www.tofurky.com)***.

All food aside, decorating for the holiday is a great way to get festive. At ***www.theholidayspot.com/thanksgiving*** you'll find creative craft ideas to keep the little ones out of your hair, including that kindergarten favorite, the Thanksgiving handprint turkey. Crafty holiday projects for grown-ups are available at **Thanksgiving With Reader's Digest** ***(www.readersdigest.com/features/thanksgiving)***. The crafts page includes instructions for making candles and creating a centerpiece for the holiday dinner table. The site also has a bookstore with selections on holiday cooking and crafts.

And speaking of holiday decorations, whose lawn wouldn't benefit from the adornment of a life-size, light-up plastic turkey? **Blowmold Central** ***(www.blowmoldcentral.com)*** sells lawn ornaments for every season and has a fine assortment of glowing pilgrims to accompany your lawn turkey. You'll also want to check out the 17-inch lighted "harvest corn" kernels.

If your parents taught you anything as a kid, you know that there's much more to Thanksgiving than eating until you practically burst. For the story behind the holiday, point your browser to ***www.bham.wednet.edu/thanks.htm,*** where you can brush up on those grade-school history lessons with countless links about everything from Plymouth Rock and the Mayflower Compact to what the Puritans really ate at that first feast.

You can also find your favorite Thanksgiving Day events (besides gorging and napping) online. Head to ***www.nyctourist.com/macys_menu.htm*** to learn all you ever wanted to know about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Here you can check out the parade route map and photo gallery, plus read a fascinating history of the event. If you want to experience those gargantuan balloons firsthand, you can get tips on getting a good spot along the parade route and information on area accommodations at ***www.ny.com/holiday/thanksgiving/parade.html.*** And what Thanksgiving Day would be complete without topping it all off with some good old testosterone? Check your local TV listings at TV Guide Online ***(www.tvguide.com)*** for post-pig-out pigskin game times. ▼

The Fujitsu LifeBook™ B Series, weighs in at approximately 3 lbs. Easy to navigate and view, with the exclusive 10.4" TFT touch screen and stylus. Powered by a Mobile Intel® Celeron™ processor, with built-in 56k modem and Ethernet, this little powerhouse will keep you connected.

intel inside celeron™ PROCESSOR

FUJITSU

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE

Wouldn't it be great if your notebook were really small enough to take with you anywhere you wanted to go? And what if your notebook had a touch screen that allowed you to work and navigate faster and easier than ever before? Could you imagine having such a powerful tool that actually helped you stay in touch? We can! We are Fujitsu. We don't just build notebooks, we create them. Powerful computers engineered with unique features built to last and designed to impress.

Fujitsu recommends Windows® 2000 Professional for business.

For a complete line of Fujitsu mobile products, please visit us at

www.fujitsupc.com

or call us at 1-877-FPCDirect.

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WebBuyer

SITE REVIEWS

SITE REVIEWS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

COMPILED BY KEVIN SAVETZ AND ABIGAIL CRANE

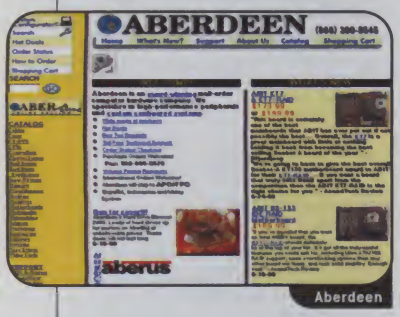
PC SHOPPING SITES

The sites in this listing sell products from multiple manufacturers. See the sites under "PC Direct Vendors," or check the *Computer Shopper* Source Directory ***(cgi.zdnet.com/slink?8145)*** for more information on PC manufacturers offering only their own brands (such as Dell and Gateway).

aberdeeninc.com

👍 volume pricing • smooth navigation • easy ordering
👎 limited software selection

Built for the savvy consumer who craves technical information, **Aberdeen** offers extensive specs on a wide variety of computers and accessories.



accessmicro.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

Shoppers will enjoy the selection at **Access Micro,** which offers 45,000 items ranging from memory to T1 routers. The help desk and hardware guide provide aid to first-time visitors.

www.applied-computer.com

👍 smooth navigation
👎 handling fee on orders under $200

Selling PCs and supplies since 1984, **Applied Computer** promises to match or beat any advertised price. The company stocks 800,000 products—check the site's list of the 1,000 most popular ones.

blackbox.com

👍 smooth navigation

Specializing in cabling and network-connectivity products, **Black Box's** extensive 900-page catalog of storage, LAN, switch, surge-protection, and other accessories can be viewed online or off.

buy.com

👍 price-matching policy • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

You'll find everything from computers and software to electronics, books, movies, music, and video games at this monstrous, multifaceted site. **Buy.com** sells a whopping 850,000 items. Despite the site's mind-blowing selection, shopping is fast and efficient.

cablestogo.com

👍 hard-to-find tools and test equipment
👎 $30 minimum order requirement

Cables To Go sells every conceivable cable, cord, or wire your PC might need, from standard SCSI to esoteric system-specific cables. You'll also find networking products and all sorts of adapters.

cdw.com

👍 list of rebates and coupons • business leasing options available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

CDW offers an impressive array of hardware and software. The comparison tool lets shoppers create side-by-side comparisons in many product categories.

compuplus.com

👍 good return policy

Comp-U-Plus highlights its customer service, offering a 30-day money-back guarantee and free technical support. Its catalog isn't the biggest, but plenty of name brands are represented, and prices are reasonable.

compusa.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

CompUSA is a well-organized site offering a fair amount of PC hardware, peripherals, and accessories, with electronics, software, and gadgets rounding out the selection. Don't overlook the site's clearance section.

computability.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

Beginning its mail-order business in 1982, **ComputAbility** has aged considerably better than the Commodore 64 you bought that year. The site offers desktop, notebook, and handheld computers, plus a wide variety of peripherals and software.

computercomputer.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

This site is blunt about its target market: "Who should not shop here? Computer novices and first-time computer buyers or builders." But if you want to piece together your own PC and don't need technical assistance, **computercomputer.com's** bare-bones systems and components will make a good starting point.

computergate.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

In business since 1991, **ComputerGate** offers a 30-day satisfaction return policy on its products, which include built-to-order PCs and peripherals.

computers4sure.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

The 17 well-stocked departments at **Computers4Sure.com** include networking equipment, peripherals, PDAs, scanners, and more—the selection spans 60,000 products. Fast and intuitive, the site delivers handy features for choosy shoppers. Bargain hunters can quickly sniff out deals on the Special Offers and Clearance pages.

computershopper.com

👍 smooth navigation

Computer Shopper's own computer-buying site, **computershopper.com,** provides access to product reviews, interactive guides to choosing a desktop or a notebook, and How to Buy sections for the most popular product categories.

SITE REVIEWS

computersurplusoutlet.com

consignment service • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Frugal shoppers and do-it-yourselfers will feel at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet,** a computer hardware liquidator. The company sells closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items at bargain-basement prices. You can find complete, assembly-required Pentium systems for less than $100.

cqk.com

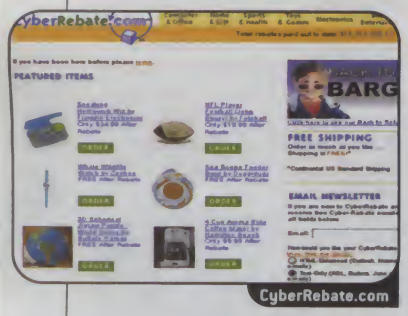
Designed for folks who know what they want, **Computer Quick** offers plain-box, best-buy, and closeout merchandise in addition to a selection of more than 90,000 items in regular stock.

cyberrebate.com

"100% Off" tab shows 300 products whose rebates equal their cost • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

rebates take 10 to 14 weeks to process

CyberRebate.com only sells products that come with money-back rebates. You'll find a small selection of computer accessories and software. In addition, the site offers electronics, office supplies, toys, and kitchen items.



CyberRebate.com

cyberwarehouse.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

may take up to three days to ship

If you're the kind of shopper who can't pass up a bargain-basement sale or an outlet mall, this site may be for you. **CyberWarehouse** offers PCs, monitors, printers, and other peripherals.

www.dalco.com

international and APO/FPO orders • smooth navigation

Dalco stocks everything from motherboards to monitors. Bargain hunters will want to start with this site's specials, which are shown on the home page and change regularly.

direct411.com

easy ordering

Direct411 offers an impressive selection of 50,000 in-stock hardware and software products. The catalog includes servers, memory upgrades, storage devices, digital cameras, and software.

dirtcheapdrives.com

detailed archive of technical-support information • quantity discounts available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

If you can store data on it, this site sells it. **Dirt Cheap Drives** offers deals on hard drives, CD-ROM and DVD hardware, drive arrays, and hard-to-find laptop storage. This 10-year-old company also stocks mounting kits, media, and other accessories.

ecost.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full realm of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use systems, peripherals, accessories, software, and games. Featured specials in each category point shoppers to the best deals, and fastidiously organized subcategories help them find the exact products they need.

egghead.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Egghead.com shoppers can browse the hardware, software, office products, and electronics superstores. You can also buy home electronics and leisure products.

electrified.com

30-day guarantee on all items • se habla español • good return policy

Looking for deep discounts on older laptops, notebooks, monitors, and printers? **Electrified** specializes in products that are discontinued, second-inventory, refurbished, off-lease, or otherwise not state-of-the-art. Systems range from new Pentium II laptops to under-$200 used 486s.

elinux.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **eLinux.com** site offers hardware and software for users of the Linux operating system. Desktop and notebook systems for sale here have been tested with Linux and don't come bundled with that "other" OS.

firstsource.com

real-time online customer service • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Focused on the technology needs of businesses, **Firstsource** offers a broad range of choices in computer hardware, rack-mount systems, network tools, phone systems, wiring, and business software.

gogocity.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

You'll get beyond **GoGoCity.com's** funny name when you see its excellent selection of computer hardware. You'll find desktop and notebook computers, peripherals, software, and PC accessories of all types. Detailed product information, often with pictures, rounds out the catalog.

www.handgear.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

HandGear offers a small selection of Palm hardware, plus other mobile-computing accessories and software.

insight.com

separate sites for the U.S., Canada, Germany, and the U.K. • smooth navigation • easy ordering

With more than 100,000 items, **Insight** offers an impressive and easy-to-navigate catalog of hardware and software products. More than 100 free newsletters feature new-product news, closeout specials, and tech news.

www.jandr.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Hardware, software, home-office products, and appliances abound at **J&R Computer World,** making this a one-stop shop for many. You'll also find a huge selection of digital and traditional film cameras.

laptoptravel.com

smooth navigation

Laptop Travel sells portable-computing and international travel gear, including electrical adapters, modem converters and couplers, and security accessories. You'll find traditional and "camouflaged" laptop carrying cases, laptop RAM, and storage add-ons.

SITE REVIEWS

thelinuxstore.com

smooth navigation

If your PC is "penguin-powered," **The Linux Store** might be your place to shop. The site offers a small selection of hardware and software that's compatible with the popular alternative operating system. The community area offers Linux news, free downloads, and Web links.

mcglen.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

McGlen Micro's specialized searches can help you find memory and other accessories compatible with your computer, printer, and copier. Shoppers can design a custom system to be built and shipped in two days.

megahaus.com

lifetime technical support on all products • CD-mastering and other utility software • smooth navigation

MegaHaus calls itself "the drive authority." It offers a wide variety of storage solutions, including hard drives, DVD drives, RAID, and removable storage. A technical-information area features FAQs and specifications on hardware ranging from DVD players to drive brackets.

mei-microcenter.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

MEI-Micro Center offers new and refurbished desktops from Compaq, eMachines, Hewlett-Packard, and PowerSpec. There's also a small selection of peripherals. Rummage around the bargain bin for deals on closeouts, refurbished units, and overstocks.

memman.com

all memory carries a lifetime warranty • smooth navigation • good return policy

When it's time to upgrade the memory in your desktop or laptop, don't forget **Memory Man.** Besides memory chips, the site sells processors, motherboards, hard drives, heat sinks, and batteries for many types of notebooks.

memory4less.com

company tests all products shipped • smooth navigation

Memory4Less offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM, including older, hard-to-find types. If you don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera, it will tell you. The site also sells CPUs, motherboards, and laptop hard drives.

microx-press.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

MicroX-Press offers detailed information about most products, as well as a handy "E-mail me when this product is priced at…" feature and a configuration tool. Customers are invited to rate and review products they've tried.

www.mobile-mania.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Digital cameras, e-mail devices, PDAs, cases, and adapters of all sorts are available for folks on the go at **Mobile Mania.**

mobileplanet.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Offering gadgets for mobile professionals, **MobilePlanet** is home to a gaggle of high-tech tools and toys. The selection includes handheld and notebook computers, PDAs, wireless communication products, and travel-size printers and scanners—plus countless accessories for each.

motherboards.com

With a wide selection of motherboards from nine manufacturers, do-it-yourselfers can pick the perfect innards for their new PCs at **Motherboards.com.** This Web store offers CPUs, memory, graphics cards, drives, and other internal essentials.

www.mwave.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Multiwave Direct's friendly site sells a multitude of hardware and software products. In addition to PC systems and peripherals, this Web store stocks notebook accessories, videoconferencing equipment, and network tools.

www.necx.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering
$25 surcharge for phone orders

NECX offers all manner of hardware, accessories, and software. The Showcases section highlights products in specialty categories, such as PDAs or USB peripherals. The How to Buy guides offer impartial advice on selecting and installing common PC add-ons.

neutronet.com

purchases earn credit points toward your next order • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Neutron Computers carries thousands of computer systems and peripherals from nearly 400 different manufacturers and distributors. The site's handy toolbox offers easy access to best buys, help for first-time buyers, and a massive manufacturer directory.

www.notebooksuperstore.com

devoted exclusively to portable computers • easy ordering

Notebook Superstore sells more than 90 different laptop models from eight manufacturers. You'll see technical details about each model, and a comparison tool helps you zero in on the best portable for your needs. Corporate accounts receive lease options and volume discounts.

123cdc.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Computer Discount Center offers a wide variety of PC add-ons, including storage, digital cameras, and displays. Shoppers will find competitive prices and detailed product information.

officedepot.com

free next-day delivery on orders of more than $50 within local trading areas • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Office Depot sells everything for the office: file folders to filing cabinets, briefcases to bookcases. The site's computer category offers a selection of prebuilt machines from major manufacturers. Office Depot provides free downloadable business forms, letter templates, and spreadsheet templates.

onvia.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Onvia.com, a business-to-business marketplace, offers many features that distinguish it as a small-business resource and computer-products store. The site's selection of computer hardware, software, and office products spans 37,000 items. The site also includes a Request for Quote marketplace, buying guides, and auctions.

outpost.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

The breadth of products at **Outpost.com** will impress. The site sells a wide selection of computer hardware and software, personal electronics, and office products. The company works hard to earn customer satisfaction with policies like a 30-day money-back guarantee and free overnight delivery.

www.palmgear.com

mailing lists offer news, specials, and user tips • smooth navigation

Palm-device users will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial downloadable programs at **PalmGear HQ.** The site features lists of the newest Palm programs, as well as essential software picks. Shoppers can buy handheld hardware and accessories, including carrying cases and styli.

PalmGear HQ

www.thepartsfinder.com

smooth navigation
minimum $75 order

A friendly site that uses a graphical interface to simplify finding CPU fans, power supplies, cables, and screws,

SITE REVIEWS

The Parts Finder is targeted at computer hobbyists and corporate buyers. Even the most mundane parts, such as bezels, fans, and batteries, are listed.

pcconnection.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

In business for more than 15 years, **PC Connection** offers good deals on a colossal variety of products. Smart Selectors ease the searching process for shoppers looking for systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

pcmall.com

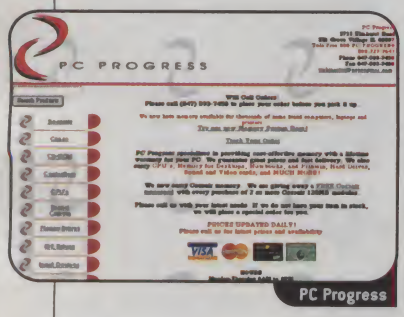
free lifetime technical support • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Many folks are familiar with **PC Mall's** thick, colorful catalog, and the online version is just as dense. PC Mall has a vast selection of computers, hardware, and software.

pcprogress.com

smooth navigation

If you're in the market for PC components and peripherals, check out **PC Progress.** The site specializes in cost-effective memory, with a lifetime warranty. You'll find a large selection of memory, including notebook, iMac, and printer RAM.



pcstop.com

This purveyor of hardware and software offers 50,000 computer-related products from 1,300 manufacturers. **PC Stop's** unusual interface makes shoppers start with a search—you can't just browse.

pcwonders.com

corporate and educational accounts available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

At **pcWonders.com,** you'll find more than 90,000 hardware and software products. Additional categories include car audio, home electronics, PDAs, and bargain blowouts.

pczone.com

printable rebate coupons • smooth navigation • easy ordering

handling fee on smaller orders

PC Zone boasts an impressive product selection of all things PC-related, including desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, storage devices, CPU upgrades, and network equipment—plus PDAs, digital cameras, and handheld MP3 players. You'll also find links to a clearance area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Zones Business Solutions.**

provantage.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Provantage offers PC products from more than 1,000 manufacturers. The selection includes software, hardware, books, and training materials. The site's Personal Tracking List feature lets customers build a list of product bookmarks, then monitor the products' prices and availability.

www.qualityclick.com

leasing options • easy ordering • good return policy

The **Quality Click** Web store covers all the basics for PC users, including hardware, networking supplies, accessories, and software. Technical support is available through a toll-free phone number, fax, or e-mail, and there is sales support over live chat.

shopper.cnet.com

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The site tracks the prices of more than 200,000 products in 100 stores.

shoppingplanet.com

smooth navigation

Do-it-yourselfers will appreciate **Shopping Planet's** inventory of barebones systems, add-on cards, and kits. An arm of the site that specializes in software and hardware for the Linux operating system is available at ***shoppingplanet.com/cm/linux.asp.***

www.sparco.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Sparco's catalog of more than 130,000 products makes it simple to shop for computer equipment. Looking for that something extra? Check out the list of products that come bundled with "free stuff."

www.spidergear.com

Spider Gear offers new and refurbished computers, cameras, home audio and video products, car-audio items, and appliances. A $10 optional membership entitles you to reduced prices, an annual rebate, and advance notice of new products.

www.ssdonline.com

the E-list service stores your product preferences • smooth navigation

At **State Street Direct's** Web store, shoppers will discover a huge selection of consumer electronics in addition to computers and imaging products. Digital photographers will find many items of interest.

staples.com

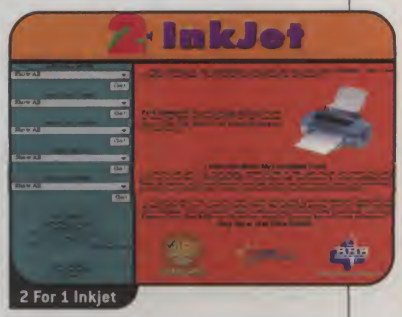
peruse your history of past purchases, even months later • liberal price-matching policy • smooth navigation • good return policy

Even if a **Staples** store is just down the block, you might prefer this elegant Web site when shopping for computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized lists to avoid filling out a new form every time.

2for1inkjet.com

free shipping on orders of six or more items, or at least $200 • smooth navigation • good return policy

If your printer is putting you in the poorhouse, pay a visit to **2 For 1 Inkjet,** where you'll find two-for-one supplies for every brand of inkjet and laser printer, copier, and fax machine.



3re.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Specializing in used computers and rebuilt electronic equipment, **3Re.com** takes open-box returns from original equipment manufacturers, and repairs and repackages the machines. Offerings include desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, network equipment, and software.

tccomputers.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

In business since 1988, **TC Computers** sells fully configured systems, motherboards, and name-brand peripherals. The company's specialty is motherboards—it tests each one prior to shipping and bundles a step-by-step installation video.

tcwo.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet Center offers "wholesale computer parts to the public." The selection is small—you may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives—but the prices are fantastic. Browse the selection or print out a complete price sheet for easy reference.

techstore.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

TechStore offers hardware in dozens of categories, ranging from CPU upgrades to storage devices. The site also offers a wide range of software—everything from Microsoft applications to children's titles.

thortek.com

smooth navigation

An array of computer accessories awaits **ThorTek** shoppers, including hard drives, notebook upgrades, peripherals, and software.

tigerdirect.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

TigerDirect's site offers custom-built computers, tested and shipped within 48 hours. Shoppers in the mood for an adventure can order a build-it-yourself custom PC kit.

trudata.com

library of useful free software downloads • smooth navigation

True Data Technology's selection spans desktops, laptops, and palmtops, with an exceptional catalog of motherboards, hard drives, and other upgrade accessories. The site also features communication essentials for businesses, including DSL equipment and telephony products.

www.usbstuff.com

Looking for gadgets to plug into your new Universal Serial Bus-equipped computer? **USB Stuff** has it all, including digital cameras, CD-RW drives, printers, modems, hubs, input devices, cables, and adapters. A sister site at ***www.firewirestuff.com*** stocks IEEE 1394/FireWire-compatible hardware.

usedcomputer.com

index of nonprofit organizations accepting computer donations

Used Computer Mall is a marketplace for used computer equipment. Shoppers can list hardware to sell or look for items to buy using the free classified ads. The site can also help you appraise equipment.

warehouse.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

The five "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware and software, Mac products, networking components, and supplies. The site provides corporate, educational, and government accounts. Business leases are available.

PC DIRECT VENDORS

SITE REVIEWS

axissys.com

The **Axis Systems** Web store offers a best-price guarantee on its preconfigured notebooks, servers, desktops, and workstations.

buyabs.com

systems available with Linux preinstalled • smooth navigation • good return policy

Offering exceptional customer support on quality desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS.** Shoppers can custom-configure a wide variety of PCs.

buy-atlas.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

The **Atlas Micro** site sells a variety of preconfigured desktop PCs. Buyers can select from computers built around Pentium III, Celeron, and AMD processors.

cyberpowerinc.com

downloadable drivers • smooth navigation • good return policy

From the Transparent Dream to the Lightning Professional, the computers at **CyberPower** have names as good as their warranties—three years, with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

dell.com

online technical support customized for your particular system • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Carrying the online banner for one of the largest names in direct PC sales, **Dell** specializes in built-to-order desktop and notebook PCs. The site offers detailed specs, an online tour of each product, and customization options.

www.directplus.compaq.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Compaq DirectPlus carries desktops, portables, workstations, and servers. The Compaq Factory Outlet at ***www.compaqworks.com*** offers discounts on refurbished and new overstocked merchandise.

fosa.com

good return policy

Fosa's built-to-order notebook computers include a 15-day money-back guarantee with no restocking fee and lifetime technical support.

fpcdirect.fujitsu-pc.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Purchase **Fujitsu** notebook computers from the source. This Web site offers personal, business, and multimedia notebook computers, with several warranty options on each. Check the Refurbished Outlet for deals.

gateway.com

Best Site winner this month. See below.

hpshopping.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

At this site, **Hewlett-Packard** sells its lines of desktop and notebook computers, handhelds, PDAs, digital cameras, and printers. Business leases are also available.

ibm.com/shop

Best Site winner this month. See p. 206.

kaypro.com

smooth navigation

Kaypro's first computer, released in the early '80s, used a Z-80 processor and ran the long-forgotten CP/M operating system. Today, the company's Web site sells decidedly more modern desktop computers, allowing shoppers to custom-configure Pentium III systems.

gateway.com

Computer Shopper Best Site Award November 2000

One of the biggest names in online computer sales, **Gateway** offers an octopus-like site with arms that specialize in serving home users, students, small businesses, corporations, educational institutions, and government bodies. The site sells custom-built desktops and portables, and delivers them on time 98 percent of the time, according to e-commerce watchdog BizRate.com.

Gateway provides a mind-boggling variety of choices on all of its build-to-order systems. You can choose among many options in processor speed, memory, storage, monitors, and software bundles. You can even choose the display size of your laptop computer, allowing you to achieve the optimal balance between screen real estate and price. The site *concentrates* on systems; accessories and software are available through Gateway's association with catalog retailer NECX Direct.

In addition to traditional payment options, the company has a 90-day same-as-cash financing plan. As gravy, the site offers all of the features we've come to expect in the best e-commerce sites, including online order status, a technical-support knowledge library, and driver downloads.

GATEWAY
Main focus: Desktop and notebook PCs
Additional categories: Accessories and software
Number of products offered: Four lines of laptops, seven lines of desktops
Areas of development: Space-saving, all-in-one PCs; free IT planning services for small and medium-size businesses

SITE REVIEWS

microexpress.net

smooth navigation • good return policy

Micro Express offers custom-configured desktop and notebook computers featuring AMD and Intel processors. Each system includes a 30-day guarantee and a two- or four-year warranty.

Micro Express

nutrend.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Custom-configure a home or business PC at **NuTrend.** The company offers a wide selection of desktop machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

sagernotebook.com

leasing options available • smooth navigation • good return policy

Specializing in portable computers, **Sager** offers a variety of notebook-computing options, from budget-minded machines to speedy multimedia units. The one-year warranty includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee.

shopacer.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Notebooks, desktops, and accessories are for sale at **Acer's** site, in addition to ready-to-use PC bundles for home, business, and education.

ibm.com/shop

Computer Shopper Best Site Award November 2000

When it comes to the PC, **IBM** wrote the book. Nineteen years after the introduction of the original PC, IBM remains a leader in this universe, and its Web site—vast and well-designed, if a bit serious—is worthy of its status. IBM's ShopIBM sells business and home computers, notebooks, servers, and thin clients. The site also offers the networking equipment to hook them all together, as well as peripherals and software. A recently added build-to-order option allows buyers to customize a new desktop PC.

The site's community area features tips for portable computing, a moderated discussion forum, and an online assistant for diagnosing problems. Its customer-service features include order status and history, and multiple shopping carts for quick reordering. Our products arrived quickly, and e-mail status updates kept us informed every step of the way.

Linux users will relish the option to have IBM preinstall the popular alternative operating system on servers and laptops. Software and support for Linux are also available at the site.

IBM
Main focus: Desktops, notebooks, handhelds, workstations, servers, and thin clients
Additional categories: Parts, peripherals, and networking
Number of products offered: Eight lines of notebooks, 14 lines of desktop systems, eight lines of servers, 1,000 accessories
Areas of development: Build-to-order system for desktops recently launched; custom configuration for laptops coming soon; Your Advisor feature for product recommendations that fit your specific computing needs

shopprostar.com

downloadable drivers • smooth navigation • good return policy

Each computer in **ProStar's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy repair promise, and free tech support.

store.apple.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Apple's easy-to-use online store allows buyers to custom-configure the company's Power Mac G4, PowerBook, iMac, and iBook computers. A wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories is also available.

tiny.com

smooth navigation

Leading British PC maker **Tiny Computers** has joined the U.S. market. The company's line of prebuilt PCs ranges from beginner to professional models.

vaiodirect.sel.sony.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

VAIO Direct sells Sony's line of desktops, notebooks, digital cameras, displays, and storage devices. The Xtras Direct arm offers add-ons for PCs, digital cameras, and other equipment.

www.winbook.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Focusing exclusively on notebook computers, **WinBook** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

www.att.net

AT&T WorldNet offers 750 local access numbers. The standard pricing plan is $19.95 per month for 150 hours of access. For $2 more, power users can get unlimited access. Families and Websmiths will appreciate the whopping 60MB of Web-page space and six e-mail addresses.

compuserve.com

Owned by America Online, **CompuServe** is aimed at professionals and is more powerful than AOL. Access is $9.95 per month for 20 hours, or $19.95 for unlimited access. Customers get seven e-mail addresses and 5MB of Web-page space.

csg.sprint.com/internet

Unlimited access to **Sprint EarthLink** costs $19.95 a month ($2 less if you are a Sprint long-distance customer). The service provides 6MB of Web-page space and an impressive 2,300 local access phone numbers nationwide.

free.msn.com

Displaying a recently revamped interface, **MSN Internet Access** costs $21.95 per month for unlimited access, and the first month is free. The service is not available for Mac users. MSN provides 30MB for Web pages.

msn

www.newaol.com

Known for its ease of use, **America Online** is the nation's most popular ISP. It offers many pricing plans, including one for $21.95 per month that gives unlimited access. Extras include members-only forums, 14MB of Web-page space, and seven e-mailboxes.

prodigy.com

A $19.95 monthly fee buys unlimited access to **Prodigy Internet.** Low-usage and deluxe-access plans are also available. Users get 6MB of Web-page space. Accounts come with only one e-mail address, but you can add 10 more for $2 extra.

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 211

my peanut butter and sardine sandwich?

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the pc dell built for me?

really personalized.

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- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
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- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
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- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]
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[40]Must register for AOL within 30 days of receiving computer. To avoid paying monthly fees, cancel during 1st year promotional period. Even during promo period, telephone access charges on your phone bill (call your phone co. for details) and surcharges for premium services and 800# access may apply, including in AK. For new, 18+ U.S. members with major credit card or checking account only. Limited time offer.

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- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
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- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
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- 32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- harman/kardon Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® Me
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- *SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card*
- harman/kardon Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]
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- 12X Max DVD-ROM Drive ■ 8x/4x/32x CD-RW Drive
- Turtle Beach® Santa Cruz DSP Sound Card
- Harman Kardon HK-595 Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]
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As low as $68/Mo., for 48 Mos.[17]

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- HP® DeskJet® 952C, add $199 after $50 HP® Mail-In Rebate (Reg. $249)[38]
- HP® DeskJet® 932C, add $149 after $50 HP® Mail-In Rebate (Reg. $199)[38]

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- Home Reference 4-pack[16], add $79

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intel inside pentium®III

Includes Windows Millennium Edition — the home version of the world's favorite software.

[40]Must register for AOL within 30 days of receiving computer. To avoid paying monthly fees, cancel during 1st year promotional period. Even during promo period, telephone access charges on your phone bill (call your phone co. for details) and surcharges for premium services and 800# access may apply, including in AK. For new, 18+ U.S. members with major credit card or checking account only. Limited time offer. **[17]Monthly payment based on 13.99% APR. APR FOR QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS. OFFER VARIES BY CREDITWORTHINESS OF CUSTOMER AS DETERMINED BY LENDER. Taxes and shipping charges extra. From American Investment Bank, N.A. to U.S. state residents (including D.C.) with approved credit. Availability may be limited in some states.**

Prices, specifications, and availability may change without notice. Taxes and shipping charges extra, and vary. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. U.S. only. Offer valid for Dell Home Systems Co. only. [2]For a copy of our Guarantees or Limited Warranties, write Dell USA L.P., Attn: Warranties, One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682. [4]At-Home or on-site service provided via third-party contract with customer. Technician will be dispatched, if necessary, following phone-based trouble-shooting. To receive Next-Business-Day service, Dell must notify the service provider before 5pm (customer's time). Availability varies. Other conditions apply. [5]For hard drives, GB means 1 billion bytes; accessible capacity varies with operating environment. [6]Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less (about 30Kbps) and vary by modem manufacturer and online conditions. Analog phone line and compatible server required. [16]Software, packaging, or documentation may differ from retail versions. [38]For rebate details and coupons, call 800-728-9665 for HP. Intel, the Intel Inside logo, and Pentium are registered trademarks, and Intel SpeedStep and Celeron are trademarks of Intel Corporation. MS, Microsoft, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. America Online, AOL, and the Triangle logo are registered service marks of America Online, Inc. HP and DeskJet are registered trademarks of Hewlett-Packard Corporation. ©2000 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

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- harman/kardon Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable® PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
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PC RESOURCES

cablemodeminfo.com

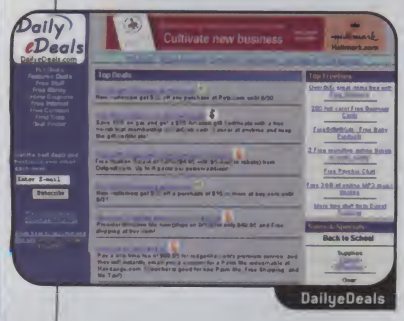
helps you find a cable-ready ISP

Internet addicts considering upgrading to a cable modem or DSL connection—as well as users who have already made the jump—will find a cornucopia of information at **Cablemodeminfo.com.** You'll find reviews of cable-modem and DSL hardware, plus tips on sharing a modem between PCs.

dailyedeals.com

smooth navigation

Before you place an order at your favorite e-commerce site, open a window to **DailyeDeals.** Its coupon pages offer coupon codes that will instantly shave $5 to $40 off the bottom line at major online retailers. The First Time area links to sites that offer substantial discounts to first-time customers.



dcresource.com

message board • links to digital-camera stores

The **Digital Camera Resource Page** is an unbiased, comprehensive source of information for digital-camera buyers and owners. Shoppers will enjoy the FAQ page, buyer's guide, and reviews.

SITE REVIEWS

dealtime.com

DealTime Mobile service lets you compare prices from a cell phone or Palm device • smooth navigation

DealTime is an independent comparison-shopping service that helps you decide where to buy online. The site aggregates prices from merchants, auctions, and classified sites.

www.expertcity.com

smooth navigation
currently no support for Mac or Unix operating systems

Expertcity promises live, 24-hour computer assistance from real human beings. When you pose a question, experts across the Internet bid for your business. Read their profiles, compare prices, then choose the expert you like.

56k.com

downloads of the latest modem firmware • smooth navigation

Don't buy a new modem until you've visited **56K Modem Central.** Start with the primer on 56Kbps modems, learn the difference between technologies, then use the price shopper to find a model at the best price.

www.ftc.gov

smooth navigation

The **Federal Trade Commission's** Web site is packed with useful information for consumers. The content covers the spectrum of consumer fraud and how to avoid it—online and offline. Articles address online auctions and protecting yourself when shopping on the Net.

gomez.com

smooth navigation

Gomez.com offers ratings and customer reviews of e-commerce sites in two dozen categories. Read other customers' reviews and check their ratings on ease of use, customer confidence, and cost.

help-site.com

links to 1,000 documents • smooth navigation

Help-Site is a great place to find FAQ lists, tutorials, manuals, and official as well as unofficial support. You'll find documentation on DOS, Windows, OS/2, and even Unix and VAX/VMS systems.

helptalk.com

smooth navigation

Helptalk offers free assistance for most Windows software and hardware. The site offers 30 message boards where you can ask questions about applications, operating systems, and programming.

modemhelp.com

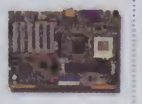
smooth navigation

ModemHelp provides technical support for modem users and a hearty list of links to other modem-related sites. You'll find information on upgrading modems, diagnostic tools, tutorials, and discussion forums.

motherboards.org

smooth navigation

Motherboard HomeWorld offers motherboard news, reviews, specifications, and tips. It boasts a comprehensive database of 1,100 boards, including driver information, technical information, and overclocking details.



nextag.com

product reviews available • smooth navigation

NexTag is a sophisticated buying service that can help frugal shoppers find the lowest possible prices on computer equipment, electronics, books, music, and videos. Entering your ZIP code allows NexTag to calculate shipping and tax for accurate pricing.

productreviewnet.com

smooth navigation

Product ReviewNet collects abstracts of all sorts of products, including computers, appliances, sports equipment, and automobiles. Each abstract includes a citation (for magazine articles) or a link (for online reviews). The site includes a handy list of online buying guides.

www.thepubliceye.com

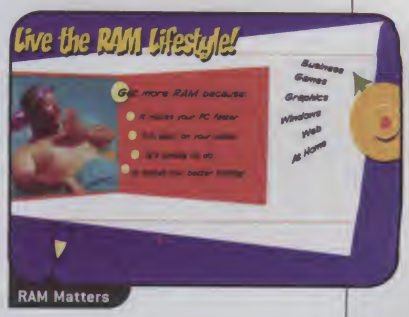
customer-satisfaction database • smooth navigation

Find Internet businesses that deliver the best service—and avoid the ones that don't—with **ePublicEye.com,** a customer-service rating site. The site uses secret shoppers who patronize Internet businesses, conducting audits and rating the service of each business.

rammatters.com

Flash 4 plug-in required for maximum effects

RAM Matters humorously explains how adding memory to your computer will make you more productive, and, so the site claims, better-looking. You'll get help in determining the type of memory your computer requires, plus installation tips.



www.scambusters.com

information on viruses—real and fake

Internet ScamBusters is a site and a newsletter aiming to help Net users avoid getting cheated. Each newsletter focuses on a single type of scam, ranging from the merely annoying to the downright dangerous. Scams that target online shoppers are also covered.

usb.org

message board fields questions • smooth navigation

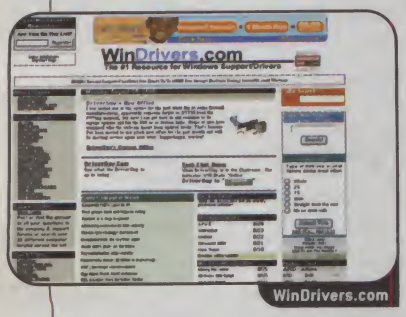
Check this site for technical information about the **Universal Serial Bus,** as well as answers to frequently asked questions and information about devices that use the bus. There's information galore for end users as well as developers.

SITE REVIEWS

windrivers.com

smooth navigation

WinDrivers.com is a comprehensive archive of drivers and DLL files for hard drives, sound cards, scanners, and other hardware. The site also provides links to antivirus updates and BIOS upgrades.



www.worldowindows.com

hundreds of downloadable drivers • smooth navigation

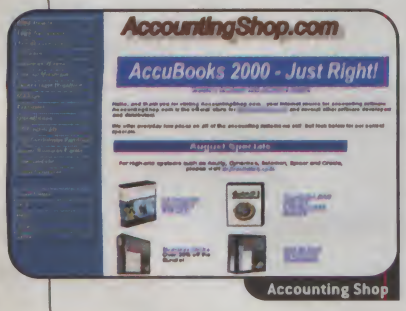
World O' Windows is a collection of useful news, resources, and tips about current and future versions of Microsoft Windows. Information and user tips abound. The site can be invaluable if you're considering upgrading or if your recent upgrade is causing problems.

SOFTWARE SITES

accountingshop.com

get credit for your old QuickBooks or Peachtree software when you upgrade • smooth navigation

The **Accounting Shop** Web store focuses on accounting software. Shoppers can choose from an extensive catalog of high-end, midrange, and small-business packages. Easy-to-understand charts let you compare products by type, function, or price.



beyond.com

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Beyond.com presents a cornucopia of choices for PC, Mac, and PDA users. In addition to traditional boxed titles, the site sells downloadable software from major publishers. The site also offers a respectable selection of computer hardware, including digital cameras, PDAs, and storage devices.

buycheapsoftware.com

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The name says it all: Here you can **Buy Cheap Software.** This site offers a relatively small selection—about 300 titles—but it does sell popular programs from well-known publishers, including Adobe, Corel, Lotus, and Microsoft.

buyonet.com

site available in six languages • software available in 20 languages • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Buyonet specializes in downloadable commercial software. Hundreds of business applications, utilities, and games are available for download. For a nominal fee, shoppers can order a CD backup of purchased software.

chumbo.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

If you're looking for a one-stop shop for software, visit **Chumbo.com.** In addition to tons of Windows and Mac programs, the site features a Linux Store area that sells applications for the popular alternative OS. You'll also find an array of DVD movies here.

cws.internet.com

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Windows users who want great software without having to spend any money can start at **Freeware Files.** This Web site offers links to gratis business applications, screen savers, games, and many other types of software. It features quick links to the most popular giveaways.

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- 2x18GB Ultra-2 SCSI HD
- Supports ten 1" hot swap HDD drives
- Integrated two Ultra2 SCSI channels and one narrow channel
- Integrated Intel Pro/100 server adapter
- Integrated graphics with 2MB SGRAM
- 1.44MB floppy drive with three 5.25" peripheral drive bays
- Three 400-watt hot swap redundant PFC power supply
- Redundant cooling system with up to eleven fans
- Advance Intel Server Management
- Supports most popular OS
- Advanced Intel® Server Management

Voyager Server ISP2150

$2,139.00

System Specification
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  Dual processor Capable
- Compact 2U rack-mount chassis
- 128MB ECC SDRAM Memory (Max 2GB)
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- Supports 2x1.6" and 2x1" or 4x1" 3.5" SCA hot swap drives
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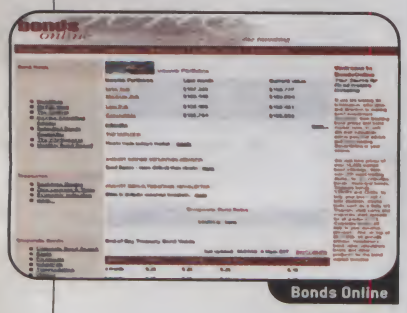
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windowonwallstreet.com

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ONLINE AUCTIONS

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well-defined categories make items easy to locate • smooth navigation

At **CNET Auctions,** a site dedicated to computer-product auctions, you can bid on the hardware and software listed or put any computer items you'd like to sell on the block. Sellers range from individuals to well-known companies.

auctions.com

smooth navigation

Auctions.com hosts user-to-user auctions in categories from stamps to pet supplies. The computer auction listings offer a respectable quantity of PC hardware and software.

auctions.goto.com

trend-watch and message boards • smooth navigation

GoTo Auctions puts at your disposal a cross-auction search engine that hunts for items in 14 categories.

auctions.yahoo.com

no charge to buy or sell • smooth navigation

Yahoo's user-to-user auction site offers hundreds of thousands of items in diverse categories ranging from computer hardware to motorcycles. Collector clubs, message boards, and live chat let sellers and buyers talk, ask questions, and trade items.

auctions.zdnet.com

the Auction Agent will notify you when a new auction meets your criteria • smooth navigation

The auction site of **ZDNet,** *Computer Shopper's* parent company, offers primarily computer hardware and software. Categories include consumer electronics, gaming, domains, and services. You'll find user-to-user auctions, as well as new and used items offered by well-known businesses.

bid.com

The **Bid.com** business-to-user equipment auction site offers desktop and notebook computers, monitors, upgrades, cameras, and home electronics. Equipment may be new or refurbished.

ebay.com

smooth navigation

With half a million new auctions every day, **eBay** is the Internet's most popular auction arena. The site is packed with unique services: All purchases are insured up to $200, and Billpoint lets even occasional sellers accept credit-card and electronic-check payments.

ewanted.com

unique process • smooth navigation

"Turning auctions upside down" is the goal of **eWanted.** The site allows potential buyers to list the items they're looking for. Sellers can submit offers, bidding down the price to earn the business. Categories include computer equipment, antiques, baby items, and real estate.

haggle.com

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Haggle.com is a user-to-user auction site that has nearly 40 computer-related categories, plus "other stuff" auctions ranging from musical instruments to automobiles. Sellers will appreciate the free basic listings.

itrack.com

auction news area

iTrack.com searches online auctions so you don't have to. Free memberships allow you to select five patterns (combinations of an auction site and an item) at a given time; for $25 per year, you can search 10 patterns at a time; and for $50, 20 patterns at a time. You can choose from 14 auction sites.

tradeout.com

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TradeOut.com describes itself as a "business-to-business exchange for excess inventory and idle assets." It helps companies buy and sell surplus goods—from computers to car parts to construction supplies. Most items are sold at auction, but others are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ubid.com

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UBid's business-to-user auction house offers computers, electronics, housewares, sports items, jewelry, and gifts. If you can't wait several days to learn if you've won, click on the Auctions Closing This Hour link.

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ConsultLink is a directory service that helps businesses find contractors and independent consultants in a wide variety of high-tech fields, such as technology strategy, programming, and technical writing. ConsultLink charges a fee to access each profile. A flat-fee option allows unlimited profile views.

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The **eFax.com** site gives you a personal fax and voice-mail number and delivers incoming messages by e-mail. The free basic service lets you receive an unlimited number of faxes. For a monthly fee, eFax Plus lets you send faxes and convert incoming faxes to text.

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buying postage requires special hardware

E-Stamp lets you buy postage over the Internet, then print that postage on your printer. You can use E-Stamp to send first-class, Priority Mail, Express Mail, and parcel-post items. The site sells envelopes, labels, scales, and more.

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paycheckcity.com

Paycheck City provides Web-based calculators to verify the accuracy of payroll checks. Employers can use the site to complete W-4 forms, and employees can verify what they should be paying in federal, state, and Social Security taxes. New tools include an hourly calculator, a bonus calculator, and a stock-option calculator.

www.pointofsale.com

Pointofsale.com specializes in retail essentials: point-of-sale software and hardware, bar-code scanners, magnetic-stripe readers, and receipt printers. FAQs answer questions about bar codes, POS systems, and cash drawers.

smartship.com

helps find your nearest package drop-off site

SmartShip makes it easy to select the right carrier for your shipments. Enter the weight and other details about your package, and the site will help you choose the best major carrier, whether your priority is speed or cost.

www.ssa.gov

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The **Social Security Administration's** site can make the necessary task of paying Social Security understandable to small-business owners. The Guide for Employers offers detailed help with employer wage-filing responsibilities. The FAQ answers questions about documentation and filing deadlines.

stamps.com

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must be online to print postage

Stamps.com lets customers buy postage online and print it using an inkjet or laser printer. You can send items first-class, Priority Mail, and Express Mail. Delivery confirmation and certified mail are also available.

usa.net

USA.net can set up a Web post office for your business, letting you and your employees have instant access to e-mail from any Web browser. The long list of standard and premium features includes necessities such as spell-checking and language translation.

webex.com

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requires a special plug-in

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In business for 26 years, **Crutchfield** assembles an impressive catalog of audio and video products for your home and car. Inexpensive two-day shipping is standard for most orders. The extensive Info Center offers glossaries, guides to choosing components, and installation tips.

800.com

Best Site winner this month. See below.

etown.com

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800.com

Computer Shopper Best Site Award November 2000

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800.COM
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Number of products offered: 250,000
Areas of development: First authorized online-only retailer of Pioneer, Sony, and Toshiba products

SITE REVIEWS

flat-screen televisions. The site also serves up consumer-electronics news, informative features, and a knowledge bank that explains how to buy, use, and troubleshoot equipment.

gadgetuniverse.com

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You'll discover gadgets galore at **Gadget Universe.** The selection includes items for your car, home, and office.

giantsavings.com

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GiantSavings.com offers a wide selection of home electronics, ranging from DVD players to PDAs.

globe-mart.com

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Global Mart's electronics area offers audio/video components, flat-panel displays, digital cameras, and multifunction printers. The selection also includes handheld PCs and uninterruptible power supplies.

hifi.com

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Hifi.com has home-audio and home-theater products to please budget shoppers and discriminating audiophiles. Unique features and policies, including price-matching, a trade-in program, and extended warranty refunds, set it apart from other consumer-electronics stores.

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The **iGo** site sells electronic necessities for folks on the go, including PDAs, cellular phones, and carrying cases. The extensive catalog of add-ons includes antennae, batteries, and other accessories for users of mobile digital devices.

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CAMERAS

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www.normancamera.com

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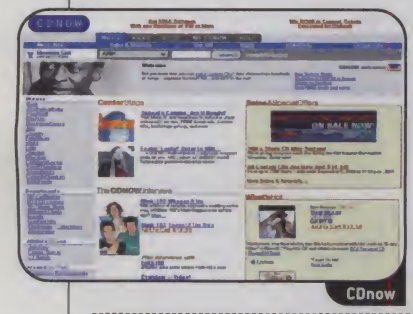
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From electronica to jazz to gospel, **MuzicDepot.com** has just about any in-print CD or cassette, as well as information about out-of-print titles. Tell the Muzic Advizor about your tastes, and it will recommend other artists you may enjoy. The site also offers movies in the DVD and VHS formats.

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Computer Shopper Best Site Award November 2000

The vast number of products and thoughtful customer service at **eToys** make it a Best Site Award winner.

The biggest section of the site, the toy store, helps shoppers find the perfect gift by browsing by category, brand, or a child's age. Other branches of the site peddle video games, books, computer software, music, and videos. A new Hobbies area specializes in model kits, trains, and radio-control vehicles. Every product listing is represented by a picture and detailed description. Customers are invited to rate and review toys.

Special features include "battery alerts" during checkout, personalized toy recommendations, and e-mail birthday reminders. The company's low-price guarantee promises a refund of 110 percent of the difference if you find a lower advertised price at any retail or online store.

The sister site of eToys, BabyCenter ***(www.babycenter.com)***, sells non-toy products and provides community and tips that address early childhood from preconception to toddler-hood.

Our order arrived promptly, and helpful e-mail messages kept us informed of the shipment's status. When we had a billing concern, customer service dealt with the problem quickly.

ETOYS
Main focus: Toys, books, baby store
Additional categories: Video games, software, videos, music
Number of products offered: 100,000
Areas of development: Kids' party supplies and hobby stores; new content channels for parents and children

Visit **Virgin's** legendary music and video store without taking a trip to Times Square. The megastore's site offers an incredible selection of tunes, DVDs, and videos, with thoughtful commentary on featured items and RealAudio previews of many tracks.

ONLINE TOY STORES

backtobasicstoys.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Now a part of Amazon.com's massive toy selection, **Back To Basics Toys** sets itself apart by specializing in classic playthings such as Lincoln Logs, TinkerToys, Erector sets, and timeless board games.

etoys.com

Best Site winner this month. See p. 218.

eurotoyshop.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

You can discover plenty of unusual gifts at **EuroToyShop,** a U.S. company that specializes in European toys. The selection includes dolls, building toys, Brio trains, pull toys, and figurines.

faoschwarz.com

Barbie and other collectible dolls • children's furniture • smooth navigation • good return policy

FAO Schwarz's illustrious house of toys has a neat and orderly Web store. "Specialty Boutiques" include Madame Alexander dolls, FAO Girl, and a Bargain Bazaar.

SITE REVIEWS

hearthsong.com

frequent-buyers club • smooth navigation • good return policy

Hearthsong's toy area offers a distinctive array of timeless art and craft supplies, games, and puzzles. You'll find fun and educational classics, without a single Disney or Pokémon character in the catalog.

imaginarium.com

easy ordering • good return policy

talking Web pages are distracting

Imaginarium offers quality toys from around the world, including arts and crafts, science and nature, and "pretend play" items. Each toy is rated by the skills it helps develop, such as mathematics and cooperative play.

kbkids.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Shoppers will appreciate the selection of software, video games, videos, and toys at **KBkids.** Read product reviews and offer your own. If your child needs to be the first on the block with a new toy, you can preorder it here.

noodlekidoodle.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

From rattles to Stomp Rockets, **Noodle Kidoodle** has more than 25,000 fun and educational toys. The Noodle Knockout area offers special values on toys and games, and the Software Bargains section features deals on kids' CD-ROMs.

smarterkids.com

low-price guarantee • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Striving to offer toys that are educational as well as entertaining, the folks at **SmarterKids.com** rate and test every toy before deciding whether it's fit for sale. Browse by character, theme, or the age of the child. The Family Resource Center features expert columns and activity ideas.

toysrus.com

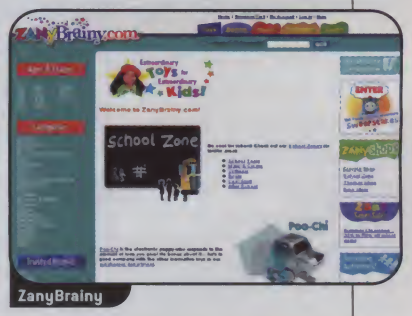
smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Offering a vast selection ranging from bicycles to video games, **Toys R Us** brings its mammoth retail store to the Web. The site's Babies R Us arm peddles infant toys, cribs, strollers, and other products for the Web's smallest shoppers.

zanybrainy.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

ZanyBrainy has a large selection of high-quality, nonviolent toys. Finding the perfect one is easy: You can browse by age, brand, character (such as Blue's Clues and Pokémon), or category (such as dolls and crafts). The selection includes toys, books, music, software, and videos. ▼



< TIPS > For Online Toy Shopping

Shopping for toys on the Web is a treat for parents not eager to brave bustling malls and overcrowded parking lots this holiday season. As a gift to you, here are our online toy-shopping tips.

- Pay special attention to toy stores' stock status and expected shipment dates. Last holiday season, several online toy stores failed to keep their promises to deliver in time for Christmas. Order early, and have an alternate plan in case they're overwhelmed again.
- Online toy stores generally have liberal return policies, which come in handy if the child doesn't like the toy you selected. Video games and videotapes are usually exceptions to this rule, however. Once opened, they are yours to keep.
- Many stores allow shoppers to preorder items for delivery when they are released. Placing a preorder may be the way to snag this season's hot toy, but it's not a guarantee that you'll receive it before gift-giving time. Call or e-mail customer service to find out the expected delivery date, make sure preorders get priority when the item comes into stock, and find out if the store has ordered enough units to meet demand.
- Make sure the company won't charge your credit card until an item ships.
- Visit ToyHound ***(www.toyhound.com)***, a price-comparison search engine that helps you find the best prices among 15 online toy stores. Also venture to Toy Tips ***(www.toytips.com)***, a small Web site that offers toy-shopping advice, reviews, and safety information.

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June 2000, BizRate.com

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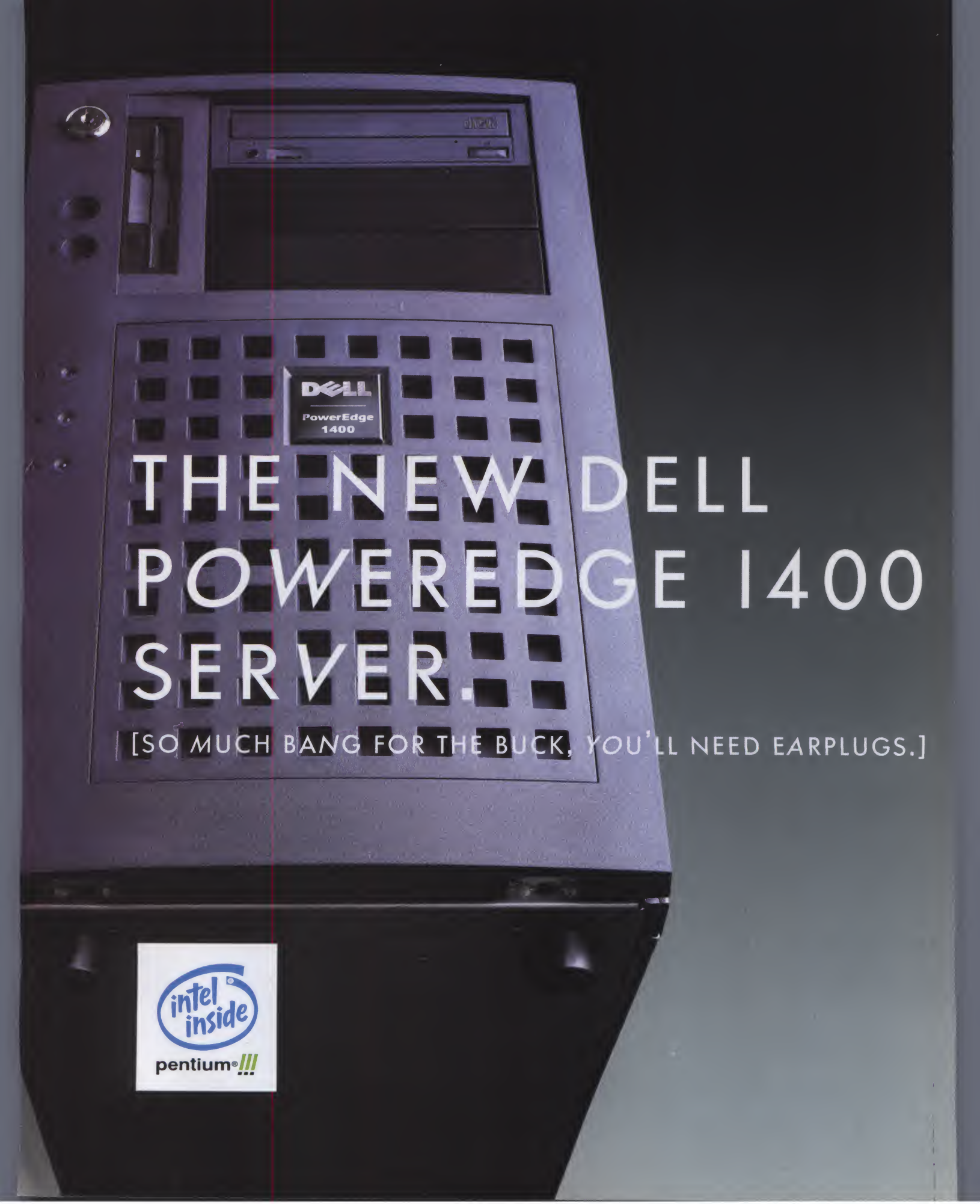
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THE NEW DELL
POWEREDGE 1400
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[SO MUCH BANG FOR THE BUCK, YOU'LL NEED EARPLUGS.]
intel inside
pentium® III

Finally, an entry-level server that shares your approach to business. The New Dell™ PowerEdge™ 1400 server. With up to 2GB of memory, it's perfect for a growing business looking to expand. Featuring Intel® Pentium® III processors from 800MHz to 1GHz and 133MHz front side bus, the New PowerEdge 1400 is a powerful partner at an inexpensive price. With built-in savings like that, who needs a rebate?

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- 144GB Internal Storage Capacity
- Dual-channel RAID with 128MB Cache
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- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers; 40X Max CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service[3]; 7x24 Phone Support

$2399 E•VALUE CODE 05901-291023

BUSINESS LEASE: $66/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Red Hat® Linux™ 6.2, add $149 NOW $0

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- Dual Processor Capable
- 128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 2x9GB[5] 7200 RPM Ultra2/LVD SCSI HD (up to 73GB[5] 10K RPM)
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- Embedded Single-channel RAID with 64MB Cache
- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers; 40X Max CD-ROM
- Redundant Hot-swappable Power Supplies
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Readers' Choice Service & Reliability Award, Dell™ Desktops — *PC Magazine*, July 2000

Whoever said you have to spend money to make money wasn't working within a limited budget. So to help small businesses get the biggest bang for their buck, we are offering our lowest-priced Dimension™ desktops with Intel® Pentium® III processors. Like the Dell™ Dimension desktop featuring an Intel Pentium III processor at a speed of 733MHz — with a 3-Year Limited Warranty[2] and 1-Year On-site Next-Business-Day Service[3], which is featured at $899. Clearly a great value no matter what diploma hangs on your wall.

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E-SERVICES AND TOOLS

Everything Must Go!

BY DON WILLMOTT

B2B liquidation auctions help manufacturers move excess inventory along the supply chain.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RESELL 2,000 PAIRS OF U.S. NAVY BELL-BOTTOMS? Or 4,289 windshield-wiper blades? How about 49 Stone Cold Steve Austin T-shirts? Liquidation auctions work well online because the Internet is good at displaying big databases and facilitating communication between buyers and sellers. Manufacturers and distributors are turning to such auctions to sell what B2B liquidator TradeOut estimates is $350 billion worth of overstocked and undersold inventories of just about everything.

Some online liquidation auctions, such as Cymerc Exchange, FreeMarkets Assets Exchange, and ZoneTrader.com, focus on large, industry-specific manufacturing machinery and IT equipment. But many others move a wide variety of consumer merchandise, helping sellers protect their brands' reputations while helping resellers get the best price on 130 mouse pads from the 1996 Olympics, 90,000 door hinges, or 890 rolls of duct tape.

LIQUIDATION.COM

A typical day at Liquidation.com finds caviar, ballpoint pens, tents, and light fixtures among the featured auctions, all up for grabs in large lots of hundreds or thousands of units. The site claims to have merchandise from more than 75 countries in categories such as apparel and textiles, consumer merchandise, military surplus, office supplies, and construction.

Not just one mouse but 3,000 were available in lots of 100 at Liquidation.com.

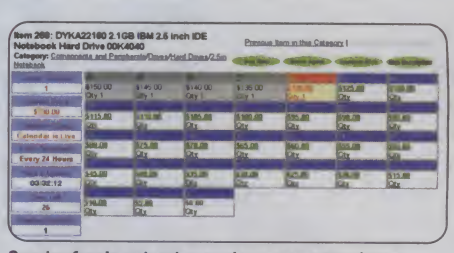
Neither buyers nor sellers pay a registration fee, though sellers can pay up to $99.95 for special highlighting of their auctions. Like any other auction house, Liquidation.com makes most of its money by charging commissions (10 percent) on sales. The site strives to take end-to-end control of a deal, helping the buyer verify the seller's credentials and get samples delivered, if necessary. On the seller's side, the site offers seven kinds of auctions, along with advice on which types may work best. It also helps arrange shipping after the deal is done—no small detail when you're dealing with pallets of monitors or lightbulbs. Escrow services are also available.

ONEDAYFREE

The unique selling strategy at Onedayfree *(www.onedayfree.com)* helps sellers liquidate merchandise to resellers as well as individuals. The strategy is basically that of a reverse auction, where the price of a lot drops steadily on a daily basis.

The presentation is done within the framework of a calendar. Sellers decide to move goods over a time frame of one week, two weeks, one month, two months, or three months. Each day the price drops until it reaches zero by the end of the auction. Prices on a one-week sale calendar, for instance, drop 14 percent per day; on a 90-day calendar they drop 1 percent a day.

Buyers can make purchases whenever they feel the price is fair—no waiting around until the end of the process. This is rare in the auction world, and makes good sense in a so-called "multiple-unit environment." For a small fee, buyers can even



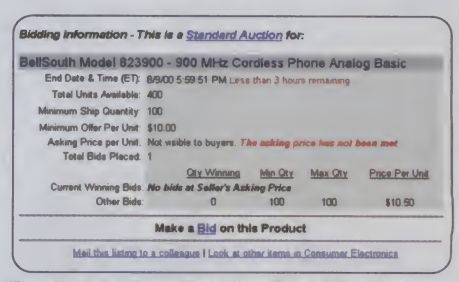
Onedayfree's calendar-style reverse auctions reduce the price of an item over time.

place reservations to purchase items on a future date, assuming inventory remains.

For now, Onedayfree sells mainly computer parts and peripherals, and not many of them. Many of the site's 11 main categories were empty on a recent visit. But the selling structure is a good one and will likely attract more sellers in the coming months.

TRADEOUT.COM

With some backing from auction powerhouse eBay, TradeOut.com offers dozens of categories, from toothpaste to metalworking machinery, with several computing categories also in the mix. As is the case at most B2B auctions, buyers pay no fees. The site charges sellers $10 per listing and a 5 percent commission on the sale.



Four lots of 100 cordless phones were available for as little as $10.50 per phone at TradeOut.com.

Sellers can choose from four sales methods: standard auction; highest sealed bid; first come, first served; and sealed offers, in which the seller views all the bids and picks a winner by any criteria, not necessarily price. On a recent visit, we saw a lot of 409 reconditioned 166MHz Dell PCs being sold in groups of nine for as little as $110 each.

TradeOut.com has marshaled an impressive roster of affiliated service providers to assist with financing, escrow, shipping, and warranties. If you've got merchandise to move, chances are you'll have success here. ▼

BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS

Sealed With a Click

BY NANCY A. LANG

It's no wonder consumers are wary of shopping online. How could they be otherwise after reading news stories about Toysmart.com, a bankrupt e-tailer that attempted to auction off customer lists it previously promised to keep private, and then hearing that Disney had come forward as a bidder?

What can you do to allay your own customers' fears? According to the Better Business Bureau OnLine (BBBOnLine), "Say what you do, do what you say, and have it verified." Online businesses that adhere to the organization's standards can display its Privacy Seal. Such so-called seal programs are a guarantee to consumers that a site will protect their privacy. (Toysmart.com, according to a BBB spokesman, was not part of any BBBOnLine seal programs.)

BBBOnLine is one of a handful of organizations that offer seal programs designed to ensure shoppers a safe online buying experience. Here's a look at how these programs work, what they require, and how much they cost.

Online "seal" programs assure customers your site is a safe place to shop.

BBBONLINE *(WWW.BBBONLINE.ORG)*

BBBOnLine, a subsidiary of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, offers a variety of seal programs. The cost is $75 for the one-time application fee, plus an annual assessment evaluation fee ranging from $200 for a company grossing $1 million or less annually, to $6,000 for a company grossing more than $2 billion. If you're a member of your local Better Business Bureau, you can get a 50 percent discount off the fee.

BBBOnLine's Reliability Seal ensures that consumers can check a company's history and obtain contact information, and that the company stands behind its advertising claims. It awards a Privacy Seal to companies whose posted online privacy policies meet its core principles, which cover such areas as choice, individual access to data, transfer of information to third parties, data integrity, security, and parental notice and consent.

To display a seal, you must agree to let BBBOnLine assess your online privacy practices, participate in the organization's Privacy Policy Dispute Resolution Program, and abide by its decisions. In exchange, you get a listing in the organization's searchable database, which serves as a resource for consumers seeking trustworthy businesses.

The program comes with other requirements, which you can review in detail at *www.bbbonline.org.* Among the highlights, you must:

- Disclose all site URLs at which you collect individually identifiable information or provide a link to your privacy policy on any such page.
- Include a description of the specific types of information you collect and how you use it.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure this information is secure from unauthorized access, both physical and electronic.
- Maintain logs of your security procedures, which must be certified prior to each annual seal renewal.

Your privacy policy must disclose with whom you share individually identifiable information, reveal the choices visitors have about how information is used, tell users how to access and correct any factual errors, and explain the consequences of not disclosing required information.

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COOK

You must disclose your privacy policies to those with whom you share information, and require them to keep it confidential. You can't rent, sell, or exchange information submitted by another party, except to an agent involved in the transaction. And you must permit visitors to prohibit unrelated uses of their individually identifiable information—or opt out of the agreement.

If your site is directed to children under 13, you can apply for a Children's Seal. To display the seal you must:

- Obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting, using, or disclosing children's information, and before allowing children to post information or communicate with others.
- Make strong efforts to prevent children from posting contact information and disclosing their real names.
- Encourage parents to monitor their children's online activities and provide them with reasonable access to information you collect from their children.

If you create or maintain hyperlinks to other sites, you must either notify children they're leaving your site or avoid hyperlinks to sites that don't comply with the Children's Seal requirements. If you e-mail a child more than once, you must provide him or her the opportunity to opt out of future mailings. In addition, you can't make a child's participation in a game, contest, or other online activity contingent on disclosure of more personal information than necessary.

CPA WEBTRUST *(WWW.CPAWEBTRUST.ORG)*

CPA WebTrust, developed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, takes a different approach, requiring that an independent CPA examine your site to verify that it complies with its principles. A CPA who offers WebTrust examines your company's policies and practices, and issues a WebTrust seal to your site once you've passed the examination. The CPA then reviews your site for compliance at least every 90 days. Fees vary by CPA. If your CPA doesn't offer WebTrust, you can find one who does at ***www.cpawebtrust.org/findcpa.htm.***

CPA WebTrust meets or exceeds the Online Privacy Alliance's U.S. privacy standards. It requires sites to disclose all return policies and warranty information, and to tell how customers' private information is maintained. Customers must also be provided details about any recourse they have if provisions are violated. The site must agree to third-party arbitration to settle customer complaints.

The site must provide reasonable assurance that transactions are completed and billed as agreed, and that private customer information is protected from uses not related to company business. Each WebTrust principle comes with its own set of criteria, presented in tabular form at ***www.aicpa.org/webtrust/wtpcbprinc.htm.***

When customers click on your site's WebTrust seal, they're linked to your business practices and disclosures, the CPA's report on your site, your privacy policy, and the CPA WebTrust principles and criteria. They can also see the date the seal was granted and its expiration date. The seal is maintained and authenticated by VeriSign, and neither the seal nor its links can be duplicated.

The program also incorporates a complaint-resolution mechanism. Through a relationship with the National Arbitration Forum, CPA WebTrust uses binding arbitration for customer complaints related to privacy violations and product- or service-quality issues.

TRUSTE *(WWW.TRUSTE.ORG)*

Before you can display TRUSTe's "trustmark," the organization must approve your site's privacy statement and receive your signature on its license agreement and self-assessment form. If you don't have a privacy statement, you can get assistance writing one from the site's Resource Guide ***(www.truste.com/webpublishers/pub_resourceguide.html)***.

In signing TRUSTe's license agreement, you agree to follow its privacy principles and comply with its oversight and resolution process. If you'd like to see the license agreement, you can print an HTML version at ***www.truste.com/webpublishers/pub_agreement.html.*** The self-assessment form asks for a detailed account of your internal privacy and security practices.

Like BBBOnLine's, TRUSTe's annual license fee is based on your company's revenue. It ranges from $299 (for up to $1 million) to $6,999 (for $75 million and up).

WELL-PLACED TRUST

Displaying one (or all) of these seals tells consumers you care about the security of their transactions, as well as their privacy, and that you're willing to take the proper steps to safeguard them. Just as important, displaying a seal sends the message that your site is a safe place to shop, and that's good for business. ▼

Net Gains Via Broadband

Broadband options are **reaching** new levels of **affordability**—and **availability.**

by
Neil Randall

Everyone wants high-speed Internet access, but for a growing number of businesses, nothing less is acceptable. Today's demand for large file transfers, videoconferencing, streaming audio and video, e-commerce, and Web serving means a 56Kbps modem doesn't cut it—you need broadband.

Unlike a standard modem, which carries only a single signal, a broadband connection carries multiple independent signals, transmitting data, voice, audio, and video quickly, efficiently, and simultaneously. We'll cover the three least expensive types of broadband access: digital subscriber line (DSL), cable modem, and satellite.

DOING DSL

Although DSL operates over existing phone lines, it taps into the unused frequencies above 3,200Hz. This way, it can encode and transmit far more data at higher speeds than is possible over standard phone frequencies. Theoretically, DSL can reach 8Mbps, but as with all connection technologies, the actual speed is typically a fraction of that. Expect downstream speeds of 500Kbps to 1.2Mbps downstream and 144Kbps to 500Kbps upstream.

DSL, typically offered by your local telco, requires purchase or rental of a DSL modem. Costs vary widely depending on where you live and what deal your telco is offering, but expect to pay anywhere from $35 to $100. Availability varies, too. You must live within a defined radius of your phone company's central office to receive DSL service; the higher the speed, the shorter this distance must be. The typical DSL connection requires a line no longer than 18,000 feet (about 3.5 miles), though the telco can extend this distance with special equipment.

DSL comes in many flavors. The two most common are synchronous (SDSL) and asynchronous (ADSL), with ADSL Lite being a slower version of ADSL. SDSL offers equal speeds in both directions, whereas ADSL's downstream speed is higher than its upstream speed. Other types of DSL aren't as readily available from ISPs. High-bit-rate DSL (HDSL) offers downstream speeds from 1.544Mbps to 2.048Mbps, but the faster implementation is available only in European lines. The fastest DSL technology, very-high-speed DSL (VDSL), offers downstream speeds ranging from 13Mbps to 55Mbps, but it's still in the development stage. It will likely appear overseas first. Paris-based Alcatel said it may offer services before the end of 2000.

Because DSL is a dedicated connection, you can set up your PC as a Web server, though SDSL would be better suited to this task because of its faster upstream speed. (You could set up a Web server with cable, as well, but cable providers typically prohibit sharing connections with others.)

DSL availability expands weekly. To determine whether it's available to you, go to your telco's Web site and look for a link to fast Internet access. Just submit your phone number, and you'll be told immediately if you can get DSL. For a list of DSL-based ISPs, visit the List All Companies link at xDSL.com.

CONNECTING WITH CABLE

Cable connections use the same lines as cable television, and as with the cable-TV signal, you share the connection with others in your neighborhood. Because of this sharing, cable connections are reputed to slow down during periods of heavy use, such as late afternoons and Sunday evenings. In practice, this isn't nearly as much of a problem as cable detractors suggest, and the Sunday slowdown shouldn't matter much to business users.

Cable users share a 30Mbps line with

approximately 1,000 subscribers in a given geographical area. At any time, you may have access to a significant portion of that line. Rather than having the constant speed of a dedicated connection, your speed varies according to the total network traffic.

Cable's major advantages are that it's more widely available than DSL and more affordable than leased-line, T1, or T3 connections. As a result, it's the fastest-growing type of broadband connection.

A cable connection has a theoretical (and sometimes advertised) speed of roughly 3Mbps, but realistically you can expect average speeds between 1Mbps to 1.5Mbps downstream and 128Mbps to 500Kbps upstream, depending on your ISP. Speeds can vary greatly throughout the day, but variations aren't always the cable network's doing. For instance, if you're connecting to a remote server that has a T1 connection and thus a maximum speed of 1.5Mbps, your cable connection won't be able to rise above that speed. Along with network traffic, the network's configuration and the effectiveness of its caching system also affect throughput. You use the cable company's local caching servers by setting your browser's options to use the proxy server. The caching server speeds up access by delivering data directly from the network center to your cable modem, instead of accessing it from the Internet.

Cable-TV access is almost ubiquitous in populated areas, and cable-modem access is spreading rapidly. To determine whether you can get access, go to CATV CyberLab *(www.catv.org/frame/cmsa_state.html)*. Costs range roughly from $35 to $50 per month. Installation can cost around $200, but many cable service providers run periodic promotions that throw it in for free. You can rent the cable modem from your cable-service provider, or buy it at a local computer store.

Security concerns for cable are essentially the same as for DSL and satellite connections. Turn off file and printer sharing unless you're using a firewall, either through hardware or software. If you're sharing the connection with other PCs in your building, a firewall becomes even more important.

SATELLITE SERVICES

Satellite-TV systems are providing real competition to cable-TV services, so it's no surprise that satellite Internet services are following suit. Unlike cable services, you don't have to subscribe to satellite-TV service before you sign on for Internet service. Hughes Network Systems, for instance, offers packages for Internet-only (DirecPC) and Internet-plus-TV service (DirecDuo). As

Habla Broadband?

A Glossary of Common Broadband Terms

Downstream vs. upstream: When you receive information, the data travels downstream from your ISP; when you're sending data, it travels upstream. Some broadband technologies offer much slower upstream rates than downstream. But this is only an issue if you plan to use your connection for high-load upstream functions, such as Web serving.

Proxy server: Proxy-server software stands between you and the Internet. Its two primary functions are caching and limited security. As users make requests to the Internet, the proxy server stores the results for a period dictated by the server's configuration. When a subscriber requests the information, the proxy server delivers it, eliminating the need to go to the Net. You can enhance security by configuring the proxy-server software to filter out various kinds of requests and data, but it's still no substitute for a firewall. To use your ISP's proxy-server system, enable the Proxy option in your browser's configuration dialog box.

Firewall: A firewall is designed to prevent unauthorized access to your PC. Software firewalls are frequently built into hardware devices such as routers. When you use a router, a firewall can even hide a PC's IP address by taking on the real IP and assigning the PC a local network IP. This sets the hardware up as the target for hackers, but one that doesn't store data and isn't useful to them. If you're wondering whether you need one, the answer is yes.

Dedicated vs. shared access: Dedicated access provides your own line to the Internet. It has obvious advantages over shared access, but shared access is less expensive and more efficient, because it's highly unlikely any single user will be transmitting data at all times.

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The problem with satellite-Internet service is that it's hard to find. In North America, the only real option is Hughes. In the near future, both MSN (with EchoStar) and the DISH Network will offer satellite services through Israel-based Gilat Satellite Networks. For now, though, Hughes is an attractive option.

The downside of satellite service is that at present it's downstream only; you must use an analog modem for upstream communication. Soon, slightly larger dishes will offer direct uplinks to the satellite, too. But for now, you must have a subscription with an ISP before you can get satellite Internet service. (Hughes offers both ISP and satellite service, but it's two separate costs.) When you send a request to the Internet, the analog modem's signal is intercepted by the satellite receiver adapter (a network card or USB adapter outfitted with satellite reception equipment) and sent to the company's network center. From there the signal reaches the requested address through the company's T3 network, which downloads the requested data back to the network center and sends it to the satellite. The satellite sends it to your dish, which passes it to the adapter, which passes it to your PC.

Satellite's downstream speeds top out at 400Kbps, so it's not as fast as cable or DSL. Upstream speeds are only as fast as your modem. Costs are similar to cable and DSL, with unlimited service at Hughes costing $49.95 per month with the ISP and $39.95 without. These prices will likely come down as Hughes sees increased competition.

Another downside of satellite is some building owners prohibit installation of the equipment. If you lease your space, satellite may not be an option. You may also be limited by your building's exposure: You need a clear line of sight to the southern sky for satellite systems to function. Companies such as Hughes do offer a service whereby an entire building shares a satellite connection system, so perhaps this restriction will ease over the next few years. For now, cable or DSL are the only viable broadband solutions for most apartment dwellers.

Security concerns are similar to those faced by DSL and cable connections, with the added difficulty that, to date, tailor-made routers of the type designed for DSL and cable connections aren't available for satellite services. On the other hand, because the signal from the remote server comes back to the network center before being sent to the satellite and then on to the user, the network center can function as an effective guardian, at least up to that point. But your best bet, as always, is to install firewall software to ensure no one gains unauthorized access to your PC.

CHOOSING YOUR BEST CONNECTION

At some point, you must choose among the three types of broadband connections. The choice depends to a large extent on availability, of course, but there are other considerations. If you're a home-based user and you already have cable-TV service in your home, consider a cable connection first, but if you already have satellite-TV service, lean toward that solution. Everyone has a telephone, so if DSL is available in your area, then it becomes an immediate candidate.

Few people have the luxury of choosing among all three types of broadband. If you can, however, rule out satellite for the time being because of its lower speeds at similar costs, and weigh cable against DSL. It's far from an easy choice, because both are similar in speed, price, reliability, and security. At this stage, we'd give the nod to cable, because it typically provides higher downstream rates and greater consistency. But watch for this to change as bugs to existing DSL networks get ironed out. If your choice is between satellite and either cable or DSL, once again choose the nonsatellite option, at least until satellite speeds increase or subscription prices drop.

In outlying areas, however, the only choice may well be satellite, and companies such as Bell Canada, with its ExpressVU satellite service, are tailoring their offerings to precisely such communities. Hughes advertises availability almost everywhere in the continental United States, and if you can get DirectTV satellite service, you can get DirecPC as well. Those living in outlying or rural areas have long known what it's like to lack the services that come with city living, and satellite can make serious inroads with such users.

If you're choosing a cable service, be aware that cable providers can handle upstream traffic two ways: through the cable lines or through the telephone lines (using telco-return cable modems). For best results, choose the all-cable variety, because functions such as uploading graphics, audio, or video files will be considerably faster. For DSL services, understand what type of DSL you'll be getting, as well as the downstream and upstream speeds.

Whichever you choose, you'll find accessing the Internet via broadband a great deal more enjoyable than via an analog modem. Your work can be much more productive, assuming you put your newfound speed to good use, while avoiding the many multimedia distractions. With broadband, the Internet can become a resource as you've never known it before, changing the way you work. ▼

Splurge for Speed

Get on the autobahn of broadband options.

If you can afford more speed, check out frame-relay services. These services guarantee several users on a line speeds faster than cable, DSL, or satellite services. Another option to consider is the private, single-user leased line many ISPs offer. Leased lines can be either 1.54Mbps T1 lines or 45Mbps T3 lines. Both can be split into segments and offered as fractional T1s or fractional T3s. Either way, they provide guaranteed bandwidth. Frame relay costs roughly $500 per month. A T1 line runs well over $1,000, and a full T3, $25,000 or more. Setup is also costly. Aside from speed, another benefit of such connections is the increased security you get compared with the three less expensive options. ▼

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LINUX FOR BUSINESS

Linux Gets Smaller

BY JIM FREUND

Embedded Linux will power a new generation of intelligent devices.

ODDS ARE, YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE ADVENT OF EMBEDDED LINUX, given the many recent news announcements. Several high-profile companies (including IBM and Intel) are developing prototypes. Embedded Linux will lead to a wide range of diminutive products running the open-source operating system. In fact, many believe embedded-Linux devices will outnumber Palm devices in two years.

The lack of an OS licensing fee has the potential to dramatically lower the cost of producing embedded devices. To date, though, there hasn't been much focus on how such products could empower small businesses.

The candidates include Internet appliances, PDAs, mobile devices, and intelligent devices built into factory equipment, or even into your next automobile. In fact, embedded Linux is a candidate for just about anything that requires an operating system but is not a full-fledged computer.

Embedded Linux is not itself an operating system. Rather it serves as a foundation, allowing software to be placed into firmware to create appliances "embedded" into a device.

Developers are interested because they avoid licensing fees for the OS that runs their applications. Right now, to create a calculator based on Windows, a developer must pay a license fee to Microsoft. For some of today's startups, the fee alone could kill the project. So the open-source approach offers entrepreneurs more latitude to develop cost-effective devices.

PDAs and mobile phones are but the tip of the iceberg. IBM recently disclosed work on an embedded-Linux wristwatch, which will be designed to communicate wirelessly with PCs, cell phones, and other wireless-enabled devices, and provide the capability to view condensed e-mail messages and receive pager-like messages.

Other companies developing applications with embedded Linux include Compaq Computer Corp., Ericsson, and Hewlett-Packard Co., along with traditional Linux vendors such as Red Hat. The Embedded Linux Consortium, at ***www.embedded-linux.org,*** is a technical and PR group (consisting mostly of vendors) seeking to spread awareness about developments. The group also provides details on member specialties—so developers can get assistance from specific companies in solving problems and thus bring products to market faster.

Some detractors claim that Linux, particularly the X Windows interface, requires too large a footprint for embedded systems. However, Jon Beutler, director of new business development at Century Software, disagrees, citing the many solutions set to ship in the immediate future and noting that MicroWindows can serve as a GUI on small devices.

One problem Brad Christensen, director of product marketing at Lineo, believes could slow embedded Linux is that many developers of embedded devices have already invested in proprietary (non-open-source) software, such as VxWorks and pSOS. To help them port existing work into the embedded-Linux environment, Lineo announced compatibility libraries, code-named "Golden Gate." These help developers convert VxWorks and pSOS programs into a form Lineo's Embedix Linux OS can host.

ENABLING NICHE PRODUCTS

Thanks to the lack of embedded-OS licensing fees, small-business buyers will gain access to targeted niche products that might otherwise never sell in sufficient volume to warrant production. Down the road, you may be able to acquire enough technical support to extend the capabilities of such products—that is, if the embedded-Linux community can perfect its ability to share code. For now, however, the coordination capability is rudimentary at best.

Embedded Linux may lead to products such as phones with streaming media and speed the day when business travelers can access the e-mail and phone messages currently anchored to their desktop PCs.

"Embedded Linux will help level the playing field for small businesses competing against large operations," says Lineo's Christensen. To help deliver such capabilities, Christensen says, the company is building a low-cost VPN router able to network PCs to one another and to the Internet. Add wireless devices to such a system, and a small car-rental agency could give its agents and customers real-time information on the road from its central database.

Embedded Linux may also ease access to services such as automated backup, voice mail, and videoconferencing. In addition, thin clients and Internet appliances will use embedded Linux to help cut business dependence on desktop computers. The resulting environment may be very stable, because Linux itself is solid.

There's even a chance you'll take advantage of embedded Linux without realizing it. The majority of those working with embedded Linux are developers targeting the small-business market. Their customers will simply purchase these products for their features and value, without being aware of the OS inside. ▼

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COOK

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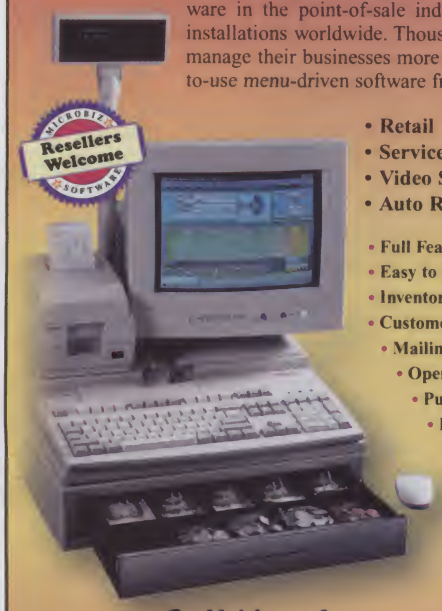

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Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
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10.2GB	512k	5400	ST310212A	$75
10.2GB	2MB	7200	ST310210A	$95
15.3GB	512k	5400	ST315323A	$86
15.3GB	2MB	7200	ST315320A	$99
20.4GB	2MB	7200	ST320420A	$97
20.4GB	512k	5400	ST320423A	$128
30.6GB	2MB	7200	ST330630A	$167

WESTERN DIGITAL

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
10.2GB	512k	5400	WDAC102AA	$77
10.2GB	2MB	7400	WDAC102BA	$98
15.3GB	512k	5400	WDAC153AA	$83
15.3GB	2MB	7200	WDAC153BA	$110
20.5GB	512k	5400	WDAC205AA	$104
20.5GB	2MB	7200	WDAC205BA	$130
30.0GB	512k	5400	WDAC307AA	$131
45.0GB	2MB	5400	WDAC450AA	$182

Maxtor

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
15.3GB	512K	5400	M31536H2	$80
20.0GB	2MB	7200	M52049H4	$120
20.4GB	512K	5400	M32049H3	$97
30.0GB	2MB	7200	M53073H6	$159
30.7GB	512K	5400	M33073H4	$117
40.0GB	2MB	7200	M54098H8	$209
61.4GB	2MB	5400	M96147H8	$253
81.9GB	2MB	5400	M98196H8	$315

Quantum.

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
7.5GB	512K	5400	QML07500LC	$74
10.2GB	2MB	7200	QMP10200LM	$95
15.0GB	512K	5400	QML15000LC	$85
15.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP15000LM	$99
20.0GB	512K	5400	QML20000LC	$94
20.5GB	2MB	7200	QMP20500LM	$127
30.0GB	512K	5400	QML30000LC	$124
30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000LM	$167

IBM

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
20.5GB	512K	5400	07N3924	$97
20.5GB	2MB	7200	07N3928	$146
30.7GB	2MB	7200	07N3929	$163
46.1GB	2MB	7200	07N3931	$233
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76.8GB	2MB	7200	07N3935	$555

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10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1016GAP	$165
12.1GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1214GAP	$168
18.1GB	12.5mm	4200	MK1814GAV	$259
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK2016MAP	$295
IBM				
5.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4391	$119
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4390	$192
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4388	$332
30.0GB	12.5mm	4200	07N4392	$459
HITACHI				
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23AA60	$126
12.0GB	12.7mm	4200	DK23AA12	$164
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA20	$269

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2.5" to 3.5" adapter kit IDE/SCSI (IDEKIT-2.5/SCSIKIT-2.5) $15
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Parallel Port External Case	(PPCASEHD)	$58
GSI External HotPort IDE Case	(HOTPORT)	$129
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ATA-100 PCI Controller ATA/100 RAID	(FASTTRAK100)	$111
ATA-66 2 Drive 80 conductor cable	(CABLEATA66)	$5
ATA-66 PCI controller card	(ULTRA66)	$25
Promise Ultra ATA-66 RAID	(FASTTRAK66)	$88
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1.60GB	N/A	N/A	$14499 RU3160J-VY	N/A
3.2GB	$27999 RU5320G-YF	$27999 RU5320G-TY	N/A	$27999 RU5320F-YF

SCA HARD DRIVES

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SCA & SCA 160 (Single Connector Attachment)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LC	$213
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LCV	$229
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LC	$247
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LC	$378
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LC	$299
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LCV	$319
18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LC	$513
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LC	$611
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LCV	$635
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LC	$1115
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LCV	$1139

Quantum

SCA & SCA ULTRA-2 Single Connector Attachment

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100SCA	$186
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200SCA	$335
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400SCA	$305
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400SCA	$517
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400SCA	$611
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700SCA	$896
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400SCA	$1654

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18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400LW	$305	$435
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400LW	$517	$647
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400LW	$611	$741
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700LW	$896	$1026
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400LW	$1654	$1784

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9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LW	$247	$377
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LW	$378	$508
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LW	$299	$429
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LWV	$319	$449
18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LW	$513	$643
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LW	$611	$741
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LWV	$635	$765
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LW	$1115	$1245
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LWV	$1139	$1269

IBM

ULTRA 160 SCSI (160MB/sec)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	4MB	7200	07N3120	$225	$355
9.1GB	4MB	10,000	07N3220	$241	$371
18.2GB	4MB	7200	07N3110	$331	$461
18.3GB	4MB	10,000	07N3210	$372	$502
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36.9GB	4MB	10,000	07N3200	$599	$729

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18.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST318404FC	$378
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SCSI Internal [CD1CD00028] / SCSI Ext. [CD1CD00028X] $309/$369

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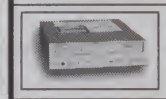

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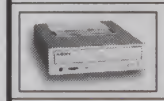
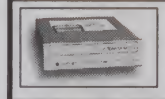
Int. (YCRW8824E) $169
Bare drive



10x4x32 IDE SONY
Int. (CRX145E) $229
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

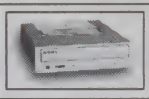
10x4x32 IDE HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4492A) $229
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



12x10x32 IDE PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW121032R) $275
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

8x4x32 SCSI HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4457A) $269
Ext. (C4457AX) $329

8x8x24 SCSI YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8824S) $219
Ext. (YCRW8824SX) $269

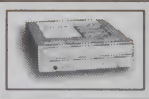


10x4x32 SCSI SONY
Int. (CRX145S) $299
Ext. (CRX145SX) $359

12x4x32 SCSI CenDyne
Int. (CD1CD00028) $309
Ext. (CD1CD00028X) $369

12x4x32 SCSI PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW12432B) $299
Ext. (PXW12432BX) $359

12x8x32 IDE HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4502A) $269
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



12x10x32 IDE RICOH
Int. (MP7120A) $269
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

CD ROM READERS

• SCSI DRIVES •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	External
Teac	CD532S	32X	85ms	$72	$132
Plextor	PX40TS(tray)	40X	85ms	$89	$149
Plextor	PX32CS(caddy)	32X	85ms	$130	$190
NEC	CDR3010	40X	85ms	$69	$129
Toshiba	XM6401B	40X	85ms	$64	$122
Kenwood	UCR415	52X	90ms	$143	$203
Kenwood	72X — Call for details!				

• WIDE SCSI DRIVES •

Plextor	PX40TSUW	40X	85ms	$99	$189

Pioneer SCSI 24x 6 Disk external CD Changer $395

• ATAPI DRIVES (IDE) •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	Int Kit
Teac	CD540E	40X	85ms	$43	$73
NEC	CDR3000	40X	75ms	$43	$73
Creative	SBCD52	52X	100ms	$40	$70
Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	48X	65ms	$41	$71
Acer	CD650P	50X	85ms	$41	$71
Kenwood	UCR412	52X	90ms	$79	$109
Kenwood	UCR421	72X	100ms	$110	$140

IDE CD Rom Case for parallel printer port [PCMCIACD] $59
HotPort External IDE CD case w/cable & card [HOTPORT] $99
New Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live MP3+ [SBLIVEMP3+] $91
We've got Labtec Speakers, Microphones & Headset Deals! Call

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Complete CD labeling system. Includes Software with over 1200 predesigned backgrounds & clip art, 50 labels, label applicator, and 20 sets of jewel case inserts. Easy to use. With the included stand-alone software, making professional looking labels is easy. CD Stomper Pro software works with Win 3.1, 95, NT, & Mac.
Alone/With CDR drive purchase $25/$19

• CD MASTERING SOFTWARE •

Adaptec Easy-CD Creator $30 *w/drive purchase* Retail $89
Super easy to use. Supports Windows 95, 98 and Windows NT 3.51, & 4.x. Bundle version now supports Macintosh operating system. Win & Mac.
Apple Toast CD-ROM Pro Retail $79
The #1 mastering software for Macintosh. Supports Mac OS7 and later on Macintosh or compatible.
Creative Digital Research HyCD for UNIX Retail version $1499
HyCD Publisher works on SunOS, Solaris, and IRIX. It is used to develop Hybrid CD-ROMs integrating PC (ISO 9660 & Joliet), Macintosh (HFS), and UNIX (Rock Ridge) formats on a single CD-ROM. Note: Bundle versions may only be sold with a CD-R or CD-RW drive.

DVD DRIVES

COMPLETE KITS
MegaHaus 16X Drive kit [DVD16KIT] $175
Creative Encore 12X DVD Drive kit [CLDVD12KIT] $225

Bare	Interface	CD Speed	DVD Speed	Part #	Price
Toshiba	IDE	40X/80ms	12X, 90ms	SDM1402	$115
Pioneer	IDE (slot)	40X/80ms	16X,110ms	DVD105	$120
Pioneer	IDE (tray)	40X/80ms	16X, 110ms	DVD115	$115
Pioneer	SCSI	40X/90ms	10X,120ms	DVD304	$145

Hollywood MPEG-2 Decoder [HOLLYWOOD] $55
Waveless wireless transmitter allows you to transmit DVD movies from computer to TV [PCTOTV] $99 or $95 w/DVD drive.

CD MULTIDRIVE TOWERS

• CD ROM TOWERS •
For fast access to multiple CD's at one time.
Perfect for schools, networks, and more. Toll free support.
Ask about our 52X models!

4 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS
(Ask about our UltraWides)

40X	79ms	Toshiba	$329
40X	85ms	Plextor	$429

7 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS
(We also carry NEC & Kenwood brands)

40X	79ms	Toshiba	$595
40X	85ms	Plextor	$759

Ethernet CD Towers - Built-in 10 baseT or 100 baseT Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. *Designed for mixed LAN* environment - can be used simultaneously from Windows 95, NT, OS/2, DOS, and UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks, and NFS. Prices shown for 10base T, 10/100 also available. *CALL.*

Speed	Brand	7 Drive	Item #	13 Drive	Item #
40X	Plextor	$1259	#PLEX40X7N	$2069	#PLEX40X13T
40X	Toshiba	$1095	#TOS6401X7N	$1769	#TOS6401X13T
40X	NEC	$1109	#NEC3010X7N	$1799	#NEC3010X13T
52X	Kenwood	$1599	#KEN415X7N	$2739	#KEN415X13T

New! Auto Switching Ethernet CD Towers
Auto switches between 10 baseT or 100 base T Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, Win for Workgroups, OS/2, HTTP, Mac, and UNIX. Pre-assembled.
40x drive speed, 8 drive tower. (MIT40X8N) $1189
48x drive speed, 8 drive tower. (MIT48X8N) $1219

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Parallel External [PPZIP100]	$99
External USB [ZIP100USB]	$99
Zip media [ZIP100C] 2-9/10+	$12/10

Ask about our 250MB Zip Drives & Media.

• IOMEGA 2GB JAZ •

Internal SCSI [JAZ2I]	$299
External SCSI [JAZ2X]	$339
Jaz 1 GB media [JAZ1GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	$80/77/75
Jaz 2 GB media [JAZ2GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	$85/80/77

OPTICAL DRIVE

• SONY 5.2 GIG •

Compatible with 5¼" 650MB, 1.3GB, & 2.6GB disks.

SCSI Drive Int. [SMOFS51] / Ext. [SMOFS51X]	$1399/1459
5.2GB media (SMAX5.2) 1-4/5-9/10+	$83/80/77

TAPE BACKUP

• SEAGATE 8GB TR4 •

4GB native and 8GB compressed capacity. Backup rate up to 60MB/min. Includes DOS/Win backup software, cable & 1 tape.

Internal IDE, with 1 tape [STT28000A]	$185
External IDE, with 1 tape [STT28000AX]	$295
Internal SCSI, with 1 tape [STT28000N]	$215
External SCSI, with 1 tape [STT28000NX]	$275

• HEWLETT PACKARD 10GB TR5 •

Incl. backup soft. for Dos & Win, 1 tape & cable. TR5 tapes $40

SCSI Internal TR5 [C4394A]	$359
SCSI External TR5 [C4394AX]	$419

• SEAGATE 10GB TR5 •

Internal IDE, with 1 tape, cable & soft. [STT22000A]	$249
External IDE, with 1 tape, cable & soft. [STT22000AX]	$359

SCSI TAPE DRIVES

• 4MM DAT DRIVES •

Cap. (Native)	Cap. (Comp.)	Max Speed	Brand & Model	
2GB	4GB	66MB/min	Seagate STD24000N	$413
4GB	8GB	60MB/min	Seagate DDS-2 STD28000NC	$215
4GB	8GB	66MB/min	Seagate DDS-2 STD28000N	$509
4GB	8GB	60MB/min	HP C1599AI DDS-2	$495
10GB	20GB	100MB/min	Seagate STT2200BARE	$275
12GB	24GB	144MB/min	Sony DDS-3 SDT9000AI	$649
12GB	24GB	120MB/min	HP DDS-3 C1554AI	$689
20GB	40GB	288MB/min	Sony DDS-4 SDT11000AI	$819
48GB	96GB	48MB/min	Seagate STL496000N	$1599
72GB	144GB	120MB/min	HP C5648A 6 tape loader	$1599
160GB	320GB	840MB/min	Sony TSL-S11000 tape loader	$2559
Media 1-4/5-9/10+		*120Meter (DAT120M)*		*$10/9/8*
Media 1-4/5-9/10+		*125 Meter (DAT125M)*		*$20/19/18*
Media 1-4/5-9/10+		*150 Meter (DAT150M)*		*$33/$32/$31*

• EXABYTE 8MM DAT DRIVES •

7GB	14GB	120MB/min	ELIANT820	$1169
20GB	40GB	360MB/min	EXB8900	$1879
140GB	280GB	180MB/min	EZ17SWK loader	$4499
Media 2-4/5-9/10+		*160Meter (DAT160M8MM)*		*$10/9/8*

• QUANTUM DLT DRIVES •

20GB-40GB	180MB/min DLT4000	$1285
Above as ext. our case	DLT4000X	$1385
Above as ext. Qtm case	DLT4000QX	$1529
40GB-80GB	600MB/min DLT8000	$3739
Above as ext. our case	DLT8000X	$3839
Above as ext. Qtm case	DLT8000QX	$3919
Media 2-4/5-9/10+	*DLT3(DLT3)*	*$34/33/32*
Media 2-4/5-9/10+	*DLT3XT(DLT3XT)*	*$37/36/35*
Media 2-4/5-9/10+	*DLT4(DLT4)*	*$73/$70/$67*
2-4/5-9/10+	*DLT Cleaning Tape(DLTCLEAN)*	*$39/37/35*

• AIT DRIVES •

Sony, Seagate call for price.

Compressed capacity is with maximum compression. Speed and amount of compression depends on your application. Autoloaders may require certain options to get advertised capacity.

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It's 2AM - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FILES ARE?

Your data is valuable to you. Keep it safe by keeping it with you. Key on your drive when you start in the morning, key off & take it home with you at night. This is the best data security measure on the market.

DATA-PORT V Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers. New IDE 66 is backward compatible with ATA-33 drives.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 with plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	$79	n/a
IDE 66 with metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	$87	$96
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UW)	$105	$114
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	$42	n/a
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	$50	$60
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCART)	$61	$71
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$44	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	$51	

DATA-PORT VI Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm,
SCSI ID switch. Metal frame and cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	$108	$117
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UWM)	$128	$137
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	$139	$49
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	$61	$71
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	$75	$85
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART)	$88	$98
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAMEL)	$54	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$61	
SCA (DPSCAFRAME)	$63	
ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI		
Cover plate (DPFPLATE)	$8	$10
Metal Carrying Case. Fully lined w/security lock (DPCASEM)	$49	

Keep your data safe - in fact, this is the ultimate in data safety. When you want to lock up your data - lock up your whole drive! With DataPort - You CAN take it with you when you go.

BACKUP SOFTWARE

Seagate Backup Exec

Windows 95 & 98 (SBEWDWD)	$65
Windows NT workstation (SBENTWD)	$69
Windows single server (SBENTSE)	$419
Windows NT multi server (SBENTME)	$859
Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	$429
Netware single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	$409
Netware multi server (SBENWME)	$829

NovaStor

NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2. Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	$49
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000Server (29801)	$115
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000 Workstation (29821)	$55
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	$295
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	$395
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	$639
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE (79310)	$295
Single Server for NetWare 25 User (79320)	$315
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User (79330)	$395
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User (79340)	$555
Unlimited for NetWare 1000 User (79350)	$649

We now carry a large variety of software including: gaming software, multimedia software, business software & more! Call.

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100MB Zip Drive — Iomega USB 100MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software. #ZIP100USB $99

4x4x6 CD Rewritable for PC or Mac — Master Cds with this complete kit. Includes mastering software and drive in high quality external USB case. #CRX100E/X2 $309

2.2GB Orb — Revolutionary removable media storage by Castlewood Systems holds 2.2GB of uncompressed storage capacity. Includes a 2.2GB cartridge. #ORBUSB $189

250MB Zip — Iomega USB 250MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software. #ZIP250USB $169

USB to SCSI Adapter — USB to SCSI adapter by Adaptec. Allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port. Supports up to 7 SCSI devices. #USBSCSI $69

SuperDisk Drive 120MB & Floppy — Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks. #USBLS120 $139

1394 USB/PCI Board — 2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals. #70HTL00060 $139

Floppy Drive — Teac USB floppy for iMac. Reads & writes Mac and PC formats. Features iMac blue case. #USBFLOPPY $85

USB Hard Drives — USB external hard drive with built-in fan & USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

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1394 PCI/Mac Board Kit — Edit video from your PC or your Macintosh #70HTL13941 $89

1394 Hub — Disconnect 1394 peripherals without dis turbing peripherals in a daisy chain. #70HTL00030 $85

1394 Repeater: #70HTL00020 $45

1394 15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin #70CAB13943 $28

13394 15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 6pin #70CAB13942 $30

1394 UMAX PowerLook 1100 Scanner with DuoDesign Software Bundle #SPKG14006 $979

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Viewable Display	Description	Product Number	Price
16"	1600x1200, .25 ag	PF775	$ 349
16"	1600x1280, .26	PS775-2	$329
18"	1600x1200, .25	PS790-2	$519
18"	1600x1200, .25 ag	PF790	$479
18"	1920x1440, .25 ag	PF795	$575
20"	1800x1440, .25	P810-4	$859
20"	1800x1400, .25	P815-4	$899
15"	1024x768, TFT Active Matrix	VG150	$999
15"	1024x768, TFT Active Matrix	VPA150-3	$1169
18.1"	1600x1200, TFT Active Matrix	VP181	$3099

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Color 670	C301001	$85
Color 740i (iMac)	C257111	$175
Color 860	C303001	$215
Color 850Ne	C251131	$455
Color 900	C265001	$299
Color 900G	C265171	$235
Color 900N (Network)	C265111	$555
Photo 750	C259011	$245
Photo 870	C304101	$315
Photo 875D	C364011	$375
Photo 1270	C296011	$499
Pro 5000	C228011B	$2559
Pro 5000 Fiery LX RIP	C228011S	$6959
Pro 7000	C299011B	$3799
Pro 9000	C277011B	$7399
Pro 9000 Fiery X2 RIP	C277011S	$12199

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16X64 PC100	128MB	$124
32X64 PC100	256MB	$269

PC133 SDRAM DIMMS

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16X64 PC133	128MB	$124
32X64 PC133	256MB	$269

PC100 ECC SDRAM DIMMS

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16X72 PC100	128MB	$154
32X72 PC100	256MB	$314
16X72 PC100 REGISTERED	128MB	$169
32X72 PC100 REGISTERED	256MB	$329
64X72 PC100 REGISTERED	512MB	$559

PC133 ECC SDRAM DIMMS

16X72 PC133	128MB	$159
32X72 PC133	256MB	$339
32X72 PC133 REGISTERED	256MB	$349
64X72 PC133 REGISTERED	512MB	$639

EDO ECC BUFFERED DIMMS

8X72 EDO ECC BUFFERED	64MB	$148
16X72 EDO ECC BUFFERED	128MB	$266
32X72 EDO ECC BUFFERED	256MB	$509

3.3V EDO UNBUFFERED DIMMS

8X64 EDO	64MB	$104
16X64 EDO	128MB	$204

5V DIMMS FOR MAC

4X64	32MB	$84
8X64	64MB	$149

72 PIN EDO SIMMS

2X32 EDO	8MB	$15
4X32 EDO	16MB	$44
8X32 EDO	32MB	$87
16X32 EDO	64MB	$69
32X32 EDO	128MB	$245

CORSAIR MEMORY

CM654S128-133	128MB	16X64 PC133	$183
CM654S128-133C2	128MB	16X64 PC133 CAS2	$213
CM654S256-133	256MB	32X64 PC133	$369
CM654S256-133C2	256MB	32X64 PC133 CAS2	$404
CM734S128-133	128MB	16X72 PC133 ECC	$206
CM724S256-133	256MB	32X72 PC133 ECC	$417
CM744S512-133	512MB	64X72 PC133 ECC	$963
CM744S1024-133	1GB	128X72 PC133 ECC	$2145
CM654S128-BX2	128MB	16X64 PC100 CAS2	$176
CM654S256-BX2	256MB	32X64 PC100 CAS2	$367
CM724S256-BX2	256MB	32X72 PC100 CAS2 ECC	$399
CM724S256-GX2	256MB	32X72 PC100 ECC-GX	$428
CM754S512-GX	512MB	64X72 PC100 ECC-GX	$863
CM618DR128-800	128MB	64X18 RDRAM 800 MHz	$539
VS64MB100	64MB	VALUE SELECT PC100	$67
VS128MB100	128MB	VALUE SELECT PC100	$136
VS64MB133	64MB	VALUE SELECT PC133	$69
VS128MB133	128MB	VALUE SELECT PC133	$139

DVD CDROM CDRW

MITSUMI WWW.MITSUMI.COM

48X IDE	FX4820T	$39
4X4X24 IDE CDRW	CDRW4804TE	$124

SONY WWW.SONY.COM

48X IDE	SY48XIDE	$40
10X4X32 IDE CDRW	SYCRX145E/CH	$239

TOSHIBA WWW.TOSHIBA.COM

48X IDE	XM6702B	$45
40X SCSI	XM6401B	$69
12X DVD	SDM1402	$105
12X SCSI DVD	SDM1401	$156
4X4X4X24 CDRW DVD	SDR1002	$236

ASUS WWW.ASUS.COM

50X IDE	CD-S500	$44
8X DVD		$124

HP WWW.HP.COM

4X8X32 SCSI CDRW	9200I	$279
4X10X32 IDE CDRW	9300I	$239

CREATIVE LABS WWW.CREATIVE.COM

52X IDE	CD5230E	$40
8X4X32 IDE CDRW	CDRW8432	$199
8X DVD		$116
PC-DVD RAM 5.2GB		$274

MONITORS

VIEWSONIC WWW.VIEWSONIC.COM

17" .27 1280X1024	E771	$227
17" .25 1280X1024	E773	$285
19" .26 1600X1280	E790	$365

OPTIQUEST WWW.OPTIQUEST.COM

17" .28 1280X1024	Q71	$218
19" .26 1600X1280	Q95	$344
21" .26 1600X1200	Q115	$699

RELISYS WWW.RELISYS.COM

15" .28 1024X768	TE555	$134
17" .28 1280X1024	TE770	$196
17" .26 1280X1024	TE786T	$219
17" .25 1600X1200	TE786H	$233
19" .26 1600X1280	TE988	$317

PROCESSORS

INTEL WWW.INTEL.COM

486DX4100	$19	PENTIUM III 1000B 133MHz .18M	$749
PENTIUM 133	$21	PENTIUM III 600E FCPGA	$194
PENTIUM 233 MMX	$43	PENTIUM III 600EB 133MHz FCPGA	$189
PENTIUM II 300	$74	PENTIUM III 650 FCPGA	$189
PENTIUM II 350	$115	PENTIUM III 667B 133MHz FCPGA	$209
PENTIUM II 450	$157	PENTIUM III 700 FCPGA	$214
PENTIUM III 500	$133	PENTIUM III 733B 133MHz FCPGA	$214
PENTIUM III 533B 133MHz	$127	PENTIUM III 750 FCPGA	$239
PENTIUM III 550	$146	PENTIUM III 800 FCPGA	$259
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ALICE & BILL

The Hard Edge

BY ALICE HILL AND BILL O'BRIEN

Telling Lies; Crucial Memory; Mega Color Printing; and the Latest in Vanity Web Sites

ELECTION YEAR ALWAYS GETS ALICE WORKED UP, AND NOT IN A political way. For years she's been writing about the appalling low-tech state of voting in the United States. She was one of the first to cover the electronic voting booth IBM invented in the mid-'90s that sadly went nowhere. Last summer she was cheered by Arizona's online-voting experiment, but the actual voting mechanism still needs an overhaul. In the meantime, Alice stumbled across a chilling piece of software she'd love to run through the electoral process. But first, the technical details.

Created by Israel-based Trustech, Truster could discern, over the phone, signs of stress and other voice characteristics associated with lying. Alice dimly recalls a similar product sold a few years back by The Sharper Image or one of those spy catalogs. It worked with your telephone and would light up when the person on the other end allegedly told a big one. Before she could follow up on the product—perfect, in her mind, for when Bill was telling her his half of "The Hard Edge" would be on time—it disappeared from store shelves.

It's not surprising Truster caused a stir when first released. The privacy-obsessed live in fear of such a product, for some reason. Alice is unable to verify if the two products were connected, but she learned Trustech quickly repositioned Truster as a tool for law enforcement—a telltale sign of consumer nervousness. The absence of glowing phone products on the market may have been another sign.

Flash-forward a few years, and Truster is hitting the shelves again, this time as the friendlier-sounding iVocal. Trustech has "re-re-positioned" the software, this time as a tool for banks and call centers. Call centers have sprung up all over the country like mushrooms in a forest, thanks to online-only e-commerce operations. Trustech is hoping to do some big business selling the "tool" to the country's largest commercial call centers.

Alice is perplexed by what a call-center order taker would do if someone was lying. Are they really not a size 8? Do they secretly hate the person to whom they just recited a long gift-box message? Was the fact that the company was out of the color puce unacceptable instead of okay?

The real use, of course, is in corporate America, another area Trustech is targeting with iVocal. The company is hoping banks will use iVocal to screen out liars applying for a loan by phone. But Alice can see greater—and scarier—use by corporate America for prescreening potential employees, especially in fields known for high drug use and theft, such as retail.

The jury is out on what will happen to iVocal. Maybe it will become another "upgrade" to law-enforcement software. Maybe it will slip under our consumer-privacy radar and be part of every bank and HR department across the country. Seeing how this is an election year, though, Alice would love to get her hands on a copy and run a tape recording of some campaign promises through the old iVocal software. If anyone knows how to get a (legal) copy, please drop her a line *(alice@alicehill.com)*.

At the very least, she'd love to call Bill and get an idea where that &*%$^ Lab of his is (or at least isn't) once and for all! *(That's easy. It isn't where you are. It is where I am. —Bill)*

CRUCIAL MEMORY

We told you.

In fact, we told you a while ago. What shows up a few days ago but a press release from Crucial Technology. (In case you missed it, Crucial is a memory vendor spun off from memory maker Micron.) Guess what? In conjunction with AMD, Micron will produce DDR SDRAM for Crucial for the AMD 760 chip set and Athlon processors.

If you weren't around a few months ago, DDR SDRAM is dual-data-rate (hence, DDR) memory. It can be accessed twice during each clock cycle, effectively offering double the transfer rate of single-data-rate (SDR) SDRAMs. It's a burst of quickness (although not the double speed it suggests) with few changes to the basic memory architecture, which means DDR SDRAM shouldn't be anywhere near as expensive as the accursed RDRAM. It may be a wee bit faster, as well.

If you hate AMD, does that mean you'll now be forced to buy Athlon systems if you want DDR? Maybe not. Intel has already declared it will offer memory options other than RDRAM for its fourth-generation Pentiums. "Other" is easily translatable to "DDR." Don't be surprised if secondary chip-set manufacturers also add the capability to existing Pentium III processors.

If you don't hate AMD, then cheer and applaud its foresightedness in joining this triumvirate. And toss up an extra helping of balloons and confetti for Crucial.

CLASH OF THE TITANS

There sat two humongous printers: a Xerox/Tektronix Phaser 850 and an HP 4500. Heavyweights at 100-plus pounds each, according to Bill, who had to lift and assemble the components. They reeked of high-end color output. And there was irony.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BLECK

Xerox, long-time proponent of powder ink (toner) in its copiers, had sent the printer with the waxy buildup. It was the HP printer that snorted the powder.

Setup for both went without incident, and driver installations were simple. Then it came time to connect the parallel cables. (There are a variety of interface options, but Bill had chosen parallel.) Huh? Where's the parallel connector? What's this tiny thing? What do you mean it's a *micro* Centronics interface? This LPT1 parallel printer cable doesn't fit that connector. These printers stand at least 2 feet high and probably 18 inches square. Why do you need an itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny connector?

The bottom line is the Phaser had a short adapter cable that lets you use a standard parallel cable with the printer, while the HP had *bobkes*. Bill was using the Phaser within 15 minutes. It took four days to get the correct cable from buy.com. (Yes, he could have used the Phaser adapter with the HP printer, but he wanted to get a real sense of outrage over the delay in using the HP 4500.) First round, and one point goes to the Phaser.

(We should explain that because it appears David Letterman's "Presidential Debate" has fallen by the wayside—what moron would agree to act like a chimpanzee on a talk show when it concerns an office as revered as the presidency of the United States—we'll be using Letterman's proposed jai alai scoring system here: one point for the first round and two points for each additional round until one contestant reaches seven.)

Warm-up time was a cause for nail-biting and beard-growing. *(That's Bill's forte. —Alice)* Though neither printer could be called "instant-on," melting those wax ink cubes in the Phaser took forever. Or so it seemed. Turning the Phaser off was equally protracted as it went into "fast" cooldown mode. Powering printers on and off are holdover concepts from personal printers; these network monsters go into idle modes. Still, the HP 4500 gets up and running quicker if you do kill the juice. Two points.

Bill isn't one to read manuals. In fact, RTFM was practically invented for him. So for him, a robust and verbose control panel is a near essential. Here, the Phaser ran to the front and stayed there. It should be the model for all control panels on all devices. (But microwave ovens probably don't need the ability to produce RGB and CMYK color charts.) Two points to the Phaser.

Now to print. Wow. Both color brutes are leagues above Bill's Epson Stylus 740. (So are their prices, but "wow" anyway.) In default mode, the output from either would bowl you over, and they're fairly equal. The Phaser's advantage is in its ink type; it gives the final output a glossy look the HP just can't touch. But the HP's colors are flat-looking compared with the Phaser's, which has more highlights and variations. If you were looking at just the HP output, you'd never think there could be a difference. But the Phaser gets two points for quality.

In Bill's network-printer shootout, the Xerox/Tektronix Phaser 850 scored points over the HP 4500 for its ease of connection, robust and verbose control panel, and color print quality.

The Phaser also offers several higher printing resolutions, up to 1,200 dpi. You pay a tremendous penalty in print speed, though. It's as much as three times slower than the HP 4500 in its single quality. (You can manually adjust settings on both printers, but we decided to just use the options available through the driver's control panel.) We'll split this one. The Phaser gets two points for added quality; the HP 4500 gets two for speed at maximum quality. (And remember, that's a little backhanded: HP has only one apparent quality-mode option.)

Unless our official count is off, that makes the Xerox/Tektronix Phaser 850 the winner of this little *pas de deux*. And if it hadn't occurred at this juncture, it would have at the next. From an IS/IT (whatever they're calling it this year) standpoint, the Phaser 850 just seems a whole lot cuddlier than the HP 4500. Of course, we're not looking at any price discounting, maintenance, service, or support features for either printer. You have to do some things on your own. Last we saw Bill, he had wrapped his arms around the Phaser, and Alice swears he was mumbling something that sounded like, "From my cold dead hands...."

VOTE

So maybe it's late October when you read this, but that's actually better. It gives you more time to think. November is an election month. You know, president stuff. Last time around, about 18 percent of the eligible voters elected the president of the United States for 100 percent of the people. That's pretty pathetic. (Of course, a few months after the election, depending on whom you talked to, either everybody voted for him, or nobody did.)

Here's the deal: We want you to get off your butts and vote in this election. You can't afford to have someone else elect your president this time. (We've never been wrong, and we've never lied to you.) There's a lot of stuff going on, and this could be one of the most pivotal points in American history since the Civil War. We're not going to tell you which candidate to vote for. You have to rely on your own conscience and judgment. (Besides, we can't agree on one candidate, either.) And if you're going to start whining that they're both the same, just different sides of a coin, well, BS. That kind of a comment shows a remarkable lack of insight and understanding, and we just may forbid you from reading "The Hard Edge" because of it. Our readers are the elite. We don't accept membership from anything below that mark.

VANITY, THY NAME IS ALICE AND BILL

It started as a joke. Alice was horrified by all the self-named Web sites and magazines springing up with alarming frequency. First, the recently defunct *Mirabella* magazine, which started it all, then *O* magazine and its Web site, then the awful *Ralph Lauren* magazine and site. Not to be outdone, Alice went off and registered Alicehill.com. But then Bill got jealous and registered AliceandBill.com. Stop by, and maybe someday soon they'll have a photo and some reader mail and all those self-indulgent things they hate. *(Ah, c'mon. If I'd registered it, I'd have called it BillandAlice.com. —Bill)*

Meanwhile, why not send them a note to show you care. Who knows? Maybe you'll wind up on AliceandBill.com.

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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 264

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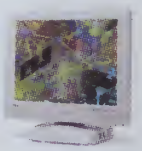

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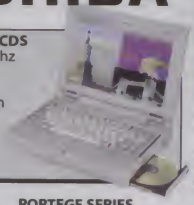

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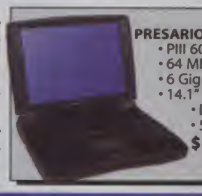

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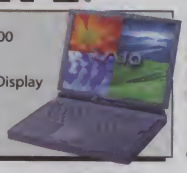

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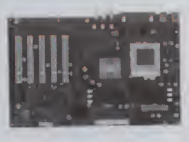

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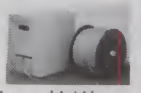

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- RJ45 connector, 10/100BASE-T.

XPS3A.....3 RJ45 ports.....**$119.95**

- Netgear PS110, 10/100Mbps.

NHBNPS110...2 ports.....**$104.95**

ETHERNET CARD

CNET Ethernet Cards

- For multimedia data transfer
- 10/100Mbps dual speed
- PCI Bus, Full Duplex
- CNET Pro2000

NECCNP2.....**$13.95**

- With Wake-On-Lan

NECCNP2W.....**$15.95**

ARK Ethernet Cards

- 10Base-T ISA, RJ45 & BNC Connectors

NECA16PU.....**$8.49**

- 10/100Base-T PCI, RJ45 & BNC Connectors

NECA32PR.....**$8.95**

- 10Base-T PCI, RJ45 Connectors and Realtek Chipset

NECA32RT.....**$9.95**

3Com Ethernet Cards

- 10/100Mbps Network Interface Card
- PCI Bus, TX Cables and Connectors

NECC905CM.....**$44.95**

- Remote Wake-Up Connector on Motherboard

NECCTXNM.....**$41.95**

Other Brand Ethernet Cards

- Netgear FA310TX, PCI, 100Base-T

NECN310TX.....**$16.49**

- D-Link 10/100Mbps DFE530TX+, PCI

NECD530P.....**$15.95**

- Intel 8460B Ethernet Express PRO 10/100, PCI

NECI8460B.....**$38.95**

CASES, STORAGE & ACCESORIES

EVA and PVC Material CD Wallet for 24, 56, 80 & 280 CD's

All EVA CD wallet are made out of weather proof material with compressed padding, reinforced edge bonding, and round corner that shows an elegant and classy style in a solid finish. It keeps CD's clean and free from dust.

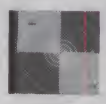
- EVA material, black color.

XDBCE28B.....28 pcs capacity.....**$7.95**
XDBCE56B.....56 pcs capacity.....**$10.95**

- PVC material, black color.

XDBCP28B.....24 pcs capacity.....**$4.95**
XDBCP80B.....80 pcs capacity.....**$9.95**
XDBCP208B.....208 pcs capacity.....**$19.95**

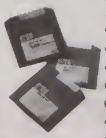
Premium Blank CD-R's



- 74 minutes, 650MB on each disk.
- Treated w/ a durable coating for added protection.

MCB01J/CD-R w/ jewel case. .....69¢.....**67¢/20+**
MCB01W/CD-RW w/ jewel case.....99¢.....**89¢/10+**

Iomega Zip Cartridges



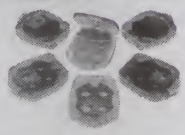
- A single formatted cartridge .
- High data storage capacity.
- 100MB

GZ100C.....$8.95.....**$8.49/3+**
GZ100CM....$8.49.....**$7.95/2+**

- 250MB

GZ250C.....$15.95.....**$14.99/2+**

Pop-Up CD Portable case



- Stores 10 CD's with colorful style.
- Built with spring push button.
- Space available to store CD manual.
- Protects from dust and organizes CD.
- 5.6"(W) x 6.9"(D) x 0.16"(H).

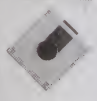
XDBSWB.....blue color.....**$5.95**
XDBSWR.....red color.....**$5.95**
XDBSWG.....green color.....**$5.95**
XDBSWP.....purple color.....**$5.95**
XDBSWO.....orange color.....**$5.95**

High–Tech CD Case

- Stores 40/60 CDs; Handle locks

XDBC040B....White, 40pcs.....**$19.90**
XDBC080B....Black, 80pcs.....**$29.95**

CD Jewel Box



- Protect your loose CD ROMs with these durable plastic cases. ***Five Per Pack***

CDJEWEL
CD Jewel Box.....**$2.45**

- Compatible with all standard caddy CD ROM Drives

CDCADDY CD Caddy.....**$3.49**

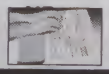
CD Wallet available on Web

Metal Thumb Screw For Case

- Easy to use and no tools needed.
- Replace Philip's head chassis screws. 50 pcs/bag.

XAK05.....**$12.95**

Wrist Rest



KBWR Blue

Monitor Filter

- Reduce glare and reflection
- Enhances sharpness/contrast

MF14G.....for 15",Color...**$3.99**
XMF17G..for 17",Color...**$6.95**

Metal Desktop Keyboard Drawer

- Stores keyboard under the CPU case or monitor. An easy way to save more workspace.
- Smooth ball bearing rollers with spring lock monitor.
- Sturdy steel case holds up to 21" monitor and desktop.
- 20 1/4"(W) x 9 1/2"(D) x 2 1/4"(H).

KDMT.....$15.95.....**$14.95/3+**

Photo Mouse Pad

- Anti-static, rubber texture.
- Dimensions:8" x 9". Fit 4" x 6" Photo, Rubber.

JMPHOTO1.....Kingfish.....$2.99.....**$1.99/5+**
JMPHOTO2.....Nassau.....$2.99.....**$1.99/5+**
JMPHOTO3.....Cupid.....$2.99.....**$1.99/5+**
JMPHOTO4.....Tiger.....$2.99.....**$1.99/5+**
JMPHOTO5.....Polar Cub..$2.99.....**$1.99/5+**

Mouse Pad

OUPB.....Blue.....69¢.....**49¢/20+**
OUPG.....Gray.....69¢.....**49¢/20+**
OUPR.....Red.....69¢.....**49¢/20+**

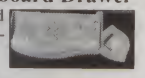
Economic Monitor Arm with Keyboard Holder

The economic monitor arm can hold up to a 17" monitor. Platform dimensions are 13.7" x 13.7" up to 66 lbs. Base clamp rotates 180°.

- Chrome keyboard tray extends 275 mm.
- A +/- 8° tilt platform for convenience.
- Keyboard adjustable from 5° to 31°.

XMA06.....$16.95.....**$15.95/3+**

Under Carriage Keyboard Drawer



- Mouse tray can be installed on either side of drawer. Includes keyboard wrist rest.
- Easily assemble under the table.
- Smooth ball bearing movement.
- 22.50"(W) x 1.07"(D) x 2.95"(H).

XKDC55M.....$15.49.....**$14.95/6+**

Perfect Duster

For dusting photo equipment, computers, office equipment, stereo, VCR, CD and hard-to-reach or sensitive surface.

XCKAS02.....$6.95.....**$4.95/6+**
XCKAS03.....$4.95.....**$3.99/6+**
XCKAS04.....$12.95.....**$11.49/6+**
XCKAS05.....$4.29.....**$3.99/4+**

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Inner HDD Tray for RH-10/12/20/40 IDE Only.

XMKXRI.....9.95.....8.95/5+

ATA66 Inner HDD Tray for RH-10/12/20/40.

XMRLX10AU.....11.95.....9.95/4+

RH-10 Complete Set w/ Mechanical Lock.

XMKMRI2.....11.95.....8.95/5+

RH-10 Complete Set w/ Electronic Lock.

XMKERI.....14.95.....10.95/5+

RH-40 Complete Set w/ Electronic Lock, fan & Alum. tray For 3600-10000 RPM HDDs.

XMKRH40I.....44.95.....39.95/5+

IDE, IDC 40 pin male, B group

Inner HDD Tray for RH-17/26/27/32 IDE Only

XMKXRIB.....10.95.....9.50/5+

ATA66 Inner HDD Tray for RH-26/27/32

XMRLX57AU.....14.95.....12.95/5+

RH-26 Complete Set w/ Mechanical Lock, auto door set, & plastic. For 3600-4500 RPM HDDs.

XMKRH26I.....12.95.....9.95/5+

RH-27 Complete Set w/ Electronic Lock, auto door set, fan & plastic. For 4500-5400 RPM HDDs.

XMKRH27I.....14.95.....11.95/5+

RH-32 Complete set w/ electronic Lock, auto door set, fan & Alum. tray. For 3600-10000 RPM HDDs.

XMKRH32I.....44.95.....39.95/5+

New IDE Hot Swapable Rack Revolution of Mobile Rack Hot Swap Solution!

* Easy-to-use. Single 5.25" Bay for Multiple 3.5" Removable Storage Devices, Such as ZIPs, HDDs, MOs, LS120s, without Shutting Down The System.
* Comes with one inner tray, rack, Electronic key lock, software, and retail packaging.

XMKARH37I.....49.95.....44.95/5+

High End Wide SCSI Aluminum HDD Mobile Rack Ultra Wide SCSI, HDB68 pin female

RH-25 Complete set w/ Electronic Lock, Fan, aluminum Tray, & ID display. For 4500-10000RPM HDD's.

XMKERWFDF.....59.95.....54.59/5+

RH-28 Complete set w/ Electronic Lock, 2 inner Fans, plastic Tray, & ID display. For 4500-10000RPM HDD's.

XMKERWD2F.....34.95.....32.00/5+

RH-29 Complete set w/ Electronic Lock, 2 inner Fans, Alum. Tray, & ID display. For 4500-10000RPM HDD's, Black Color.

XMRL29WB.....79.95.....69.50/5+

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Internal Modem

- V.90 standard 56K modem.
- Video conferencing interface.
- Plug and play.
- **Creative**

DFIC5601B.....$52.95
DFIC56S.....$25.95
DFIC5630R.....w/voice.....$35.95
DFIC56P.....$23.95.....$22.95/2+

- **Motorola / Lucent**

DFITL.....PCI .....$18.95.....$17.95/2+
DFMI56MV.....$14.95.....$12.99/3+

- **Jaton**

DFIJ56KCL...ISA....$41.95.....$39.95/2+
DFIJ56KR.....ISA....$44.95.....$43.95/2+

- **3COM**

DFIU74V.....PCI .....$34.95.....$33.95/2+
DFIU75.....PCI .....$39.95.....$38.95/2+
DFIU76.....PCI .....$59.95.....$59.95/2+
DFIU94.....PCI .....$31.95.....$30.95/2+

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USB Features and Benefits

- Support both OHCI & UHCI
- Connect up to 127 USB devices. Daisy chainable.
- Auto detection, computer automatically loads any necessary software.

WUSB4B

- Energy Saver USB 4 Port Hub

WUSB4.....$19.95.....$17.95/3+
WUSB4B... i-blue.....$19.95.....$17.95/3+
WUSBB4B.....$19.95.....$17.95/3+

- Mini USB 2 Port Hub

WUSB2.....$22.95.....$21.95/2+

- 7 Port USB Hub

WUSB7.....$44.95

USB Cables and Adapter

- PC to PC USB Bridge Adapter

CUSPB.....$39.95.....$34.95/2+

- Parallel to USB Bridge Cable

CUSUP.....$23.95

- USB to Ethernet Adapter

CUSUE.....$47.95.....$44.95/2+

- USB to Serial Adapter

CUSUM.....$42.95.....$39.95/2+

- USB Video Grabber

CUSUV.....$79.95.....$74.95/2+

- USB Motherboard Cable Adapter

CUSADF01.....$3.75

- USB Sharing Hub-Share USB Devices

WUSB4M.....$39.95.....$37.95/2+

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Optical Mouse

- Programmable buttons
- Optical Sensor Technology
- Up to 1500 times per second

JMSOPTI.....PS/2.....$19.95/3+
JMSOPTIU.....USB.....$34.95/2+

- Internet mouse PS/2 wheel mouse w/program mable side button.
- Ergonomics & noble design.

JMSQL3D.....$4.45.....$4.49/3+

PS/2 Win98 KB

KS260

- PS/2 interface.
- Enhanced 104 key layout.
- Highly reliable membrane contact technology.

KS260.....$4.99/3+

Cooling Kits

HDD Super Cooler with LCD display

- Protects CPU and HDD against overheating simply by attaching sensor to any of them.
- Temperature and time display, audible overheat alarm.
- Built-in ventilation fans. Easy installation

XTPE2C.....$22.95.....$19.95/3+

- Built-in backlight

XTPE2CE.....$27.95.....$24.95/3+

Hard Drive Cooling

BUY 3+ $5.95

- The Fast Cooler features dual cooling fans to dissipate HDD heat.
- Extend your valuable HDD life and reliability.
- A must have for high speed IDE / SCSI. hard drives.

BCFL599.....2 fans.....$6.95.....$5.95/3+
BCFL699.....3 fans.....$9.95.....$8.95/3+

CPU Cooling Kit

- For Pentium 75+, Ball Bearing.

BCF17.....586 Cooler.....$4.95

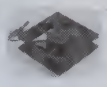
- With 3 pin connector support LDCM MB.

BCFMB.....P233+/K6-2 Cooling Kit.....$6.95

- Equipped with clip for easy installation, ball bearing (K7 Cooler).

BCFK72..... 2 Fans Cooling kit.....$11.00
BCFK73.....3 Fans Cooling kit.....$13.00

Cooling Fan with Power Adapter



- Second case fan for comput er. Includes power adapter; 3.15" x 3.15" x 1"

BCFH01.....Sleeve Fan.....$3.75

- Ball Bearing Fan, 3.15"x3.15"x1"

BCFH08B.....8x8cm.....4.95.....$3.99/5+

- Ball Bearing Fan w/ 3 pin connector for LDCM Motherboard. Auto restart & circuit build-in.

BCF8MB.....8x8cm.....$5.95

4x4 cm, 5x5 cm, 6x6 cm Case fans are available on web site!

Power Supply Fans

- For PS/2 or XT power supplies
- Measures: 3.15" x 3.15" x 1"

PFANX.....4.95.....$4.45/4+

- For AT power supplies
- Measures: 3.65" x 3.65" x 1"

PFANA.....5.95.....$5.49/4+

HDD Mounting Kit

XMKL20

- For 7,200-10,000 Rpm HDD.
- Removable ball bearing cooling fans.
- Protect HDD against heat-dissipate

XMKL21

XMKL20.....$32.95.....$29.95/3+
XMKL21.....$32.95.....$29.95/3+

Pentium II/III & AMD K7 CPU Cooling Kit

- P3/K7 cooling kit with easy clip. Supports P2 CPU 400 MHz or higher. With 3-pin power connector.

BCFVP2.....One fan.....$7.95

- Support PIII coppermine, AMD Duron, Thunderbird processor.

BCFC5G11.....$9.95.....$8.95/3+

Adds-On Cards

Enhanced Printer Port Cards

Enhanced Parallel printer port supports EPP/ECP/SPP mode. Ten times faster than the usual printer ports!

- 1 EPP Port w/ DB25F, 5 IRQs available,ISA

ONEPP.....$11.95

- 1 EPP/ECP Port w/ DB25F, PCI, PnP

AIOEPP.....$29.95

I/O Controller Card

- Ultra ATA/100 Drives

AIDPU100.....$42.95

- RAID Card for Ultra ATA/100 Drives

AIDPFT10.....$114.95

SCSI Controller Card

- To improve speed and reliability.

ASCT390.....10Mbps.....$39.95
ASCT390F.....40Mbps.....$69.95
ASCT390U2W.80Mbps.....$144.95
ASCT390U3W.160Mbps.....$189.95

MULTIMEDIA

USB PC Camera VGA Resolution

- CCD image sensor.
- With view finder.
- Instant still capture image.

MDCU318.....$54.95

- Can be clipped on notebook screen.

MDCU330.....$59.95

Spectra Headset wiht 6' Cord

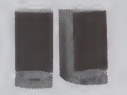
- Adjustable microphone arm.
- Electric condenser microphone.
- Mono MIC.

MHP801.....$3.95.....$2.99/4+

- Stereo MIC.

MHP802.....$4.95.....$4.99/4+

MLI-170 Stereo Speakers



- 3D surround sound effect.
- Portable sound amplification for PC, CD Player, etc.

MSP1703D.....$24.95

MLI-491 Speakers with Subwoofer

- 5-Piece speaker system.
- 4.1 surround sound.
- Small footpoint satellite.
- Compatible with most sound card and systems with audio output.

MSPM491.....$36.95

MLI-699 Stereo Speakers

- 2 Channel (stereo/amplifier).
- 9V DC power connector.
- Magnetically shielded.

MSPE691.....$6.95

Colorful Multimedia Dome

- Built with keylock for security.
- Stores 30 CD's, 15 pcs of 3.5" FDD disk, or 10 MO disks.
- Stores CD's with colorful style.

- 6.4"(W) x 10"(D) x 6.1"(H).

XDBSMTIB.....blue.....$6.95
XDBSMTIR.....red.....$6.95
XDBSMTIP.....purple.....$6.95

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230W	35	35	43
250W	40	40	45
300/350W	55	55/80	65
400W	130	130	130
500W	N/A	N/A	230
600W	N/A	N/A	300

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586/PII CPU HEATSINK W/ FAN	$10/15
2ND FAN / BALL BEARING	$7/13
ALUMINUM HD COOLER W/ 2 BB FAN	$45
HD COOLER W/ 2 FAN BALL BEARING	$15
HD/FD MOUNTING KIT	$4/5
RSP IDE/SCSI W/ FAN	$25
RSM 146 SCSI WIDE METAL W/FAN	$85
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MODEL/ SPECS	Bare Base	Dimension W.D.H	I/O ports	5.25"	3.5"	PCI	PCI ISA
105LPX socket 370	330	12.4x14.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,1S,1P,AUDIO, GAME	1	1/1	2/1	or 1
105NLXBX slot 1	410	11.2x13.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO,GAME	w/FD & Slim CD		2/1	or 1
108NLX socket 370	330	11x13.6x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO,GAME, IR	1	1/1	2/1	or 1
108NLXBX slot 1	365	11x13.6x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME, IR	Slim CD(opp)	1/1	2/1	or 1
106 socket 7	260	12.4x14.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME	1	1/1	2	or 0
169LPX socket 370	255	12.5x14.3x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME	1	1/1	2/1	or 1
182LPX socket 7	260	13.75x15.2x2.9	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO	0	2/0	0	or 2
192 370/II Micro ATX	230/240	12.1x16.5x3.5	PS2 KB, mouse, VGA,2S,1P,AUDIO	1	1/1	2	& 0

Case Specification & Price List

Model	Price	Dimension W.D.H.	MB Size	5.25 Ext	3.5 Int.	P.S.
R02 BARE	300	19x17.6x3.5	M.ATX	1/0	1/1	150W
R04B/W	290	19x24.3x3.5	ATX	1/0	1/3	250W
R08 B/W	1675/2300	19x22x3.5				
R12 B/W/X	305	19x19.7x7	B/ATX	4/0	1/0	250W/250X
R14 B/W/X	230	19x21x7	B/ATX	3/0	1/3	300X
R15	325/550	19x24.4x7	ATX	6/0	2/2	300X/300RX
R16 B/W/X	240	19x18x7	B/ATX	3/0	1/2	250W/250X
R20 B/W	290	19x15.75x7		8/0		300W
R21 B/W	290	19x18x7		8/0		300W
R22X/RX/B/W	635/950	19x23.3x10.5	ATX	8/0	1/0	300X/300RX
R26X/RX/B/W	630/850	19x22.6x10.7	ATX	4/0	2/4	300X/300RX
R28	290	19x17x8.7		8/0		300W
RSP	18	5.8x9.3x1.6			1	
RSM168/179	65/75	5.8x9.3x1.6			1	
001B	75	10x11.5x3		1/0		60W
001B1	65	8.3x10.6x2.8		1/0		50W
002B	88	6.9x14.6x5.8		2/0		60W
002B1	78	7.5x11.2x6.5		2/0		80W
004B	105	6.8x15.3x9.3		4/0		230W
004B1	100	7.5x17.3x10.2		4/0		200W
007B	180	7x15.8x13		7/0		250W
008B	280	8.4x20.2x18.3		8/0		300W
008B1	180	7.5x17.9x17.1		8/0		250W
105LPX/NLX	255/330	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	85W
106LPX-7	260	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	85W
108NLX bare	330/410	11x13.6x3.4	NLX	1/0	1/1	135W
169LPX	255	12.5x14.3x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	150W
182LPX	260	13.75x15.2x2.9	LPX		2/0	150W
192M.ATX	85	13.1x16.5x3.5	M.ATX	1/0	1/1	150W
224	75	17.4x18.8x6.1	ATX	3/0	2/2	230X
267	75	16.8x16.8x6.2	ATX	2/0	2/1	250X
271	90	17.3x15.9x5.5	ATX	2/0	1/1	250XB
288	75	16.3x17x6	ATX	3/0	2/1	230X
325B	75	8x18.5x17	ATX	3/0	2/1	235X
327	72	7.5x16.5x17.3	ATX	3/0	2/2	230X
338	55	7x14.7x13.8	M .ATX	2/0	2/1	145W
360	65	9x17x15	ATX	3/0	3/1	230X
370	89	8.3x17.3x16.1	ATX	3/0	2/2	250WB
382B	70	7.8x19.8x14.5	ATX	3/0	2/1	250X
383	85	8.3x16.8x16.1	ATX	3/0	1/3	230X
391	80	7.5x17x17	ATX	3/0	2/2	250X
393	95	9x17.5x17.5	ATX	6/0	1/1	250X
396	55	8.3x17x15.5	ATX	3/0	1/3	230X
401X	110	8.5x17.3x18	ATX	2/0	2/2	250X
408	80	8.2x19.8x18.4	ATX	3/0	1/5	250X
418	75	7.5x16.8x19.3	ATX	3/0	3/1	230X
423	70	7.7x16.6x18.1	B	4/0	1/4	250W
424	70	7.5x18.9x16.7	ATX	4/0	2/1	250X
426B/W	80	7.5x17.5x19.3	ATX	3/0	2/2	250X
436	70/85	8.6x18x15.6	ATX	3/0	2/2	250/300X
455	110	8.5x17.5x18.6	ATX	4/0	2/3	250X
456	85	7.5x17.8x17	ATX	3/0	2/3	250X
465	195	9.3x17x17.2	XEON/ATX	2/0	2/2	300X
468	85/100	7.5x16.7x18.8	ATX	3/0	2/4	250X/300X
470	110	8.3x17.3x21.3	ATX	4/1	1/2	250XB
482B	80	7.8x19.8x17.5	ATX	4/0	2/2	250X
483	90	8.3x18.8x17.3	ATX	4/0	1/3	250WX
486	67	9.6x19.5x17	ATX	4/0	2/1	250WX
489**	85	7.3x17x17	ATX	3/0	1/2	235X
496	60	8.25x11.8x16.5	ATX	4/0	1/3	250X
501	185	8.25x17.2x23.8	ATX	4/0	2/4	300X
503RX/B/P	455	14.8x20.4x18.4	ATX	8/0	2/4	300RX
503X/B/P	305	14.8x20.4x18.4	ATX	8/0	2/4	300X
505X	555	14.6x23x26.8	ATX	12/0	1/8	300X
505RX	705	14.6x23x26.8	ATX	12/0	1/8	300RX
506X/RX	155/370	7.8x16.5x24.4	ATX	6/0	2/2	300X/300RX
518	105/120	7.5x16.6x24.4	ATX	6/0	3/1	230X/300X
524	380	13.9x25.6x19.1	ATX	7/0	1/2	300RX
526B/W	105/120	7.5x17.5x24.5	ATX	6/0	1/3	250X/300X
528	95/110	7.5x16.5x24.8	ATX	6/0	1/5	250X/300X
536X	93/108	7.8x17x24	ATX	5/0	1/5	250X/300X
538	290	8x20.5x24.5	ATX	5/0	1/6	300RX
541X	99/114	7.5x16.6x25.2	ATX	6/0	1/5	250X/300X
555B/W/R	440/580	11x19.3x23.6	F	4/8	0/0	400W/300R
555X/RX	440/700	11x19.3x23.6	ATX	4/8	0/0	300X/300RX
560X/RX	290/445	15x24.5x23.5	ATX	11/0	2/4	300X/300RX
562X/R/B/W	250/470	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	9/1	1/0	300X/300RX
563X/RB/W	145/370	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	10/0		300X/300RX
565	195	9.25x18.3x21.2	XEON/ATX	4/0	2/4	300X
568	105/120	7.5x17x22.8	ATX	5/0	2/4	250X/300X
569/X/B/W	225	13.5x17.8x14	B/ATX	6/2	0/8	300W/300X
570X/RX	150/370	8.3x17.3x26.4	ATX	7/1	1/2	300X/300RX
571X/RX	160/370	8.3x17.3x26.4	ATX	6/1	1/2	300X/300RX
582	105/120	7.8x16.5x23.2	ATX	6/0	2/1	250X/300X
588	105/120	7.8x16.5x23.3	ATX	5/0	1/3	250X/300X
1400R/RX	715	16x20x24	F/ATX	14/0		300RX
1620R/RX	950	16.5x20.3x34.3	F/ATXx2	16/0		300RX

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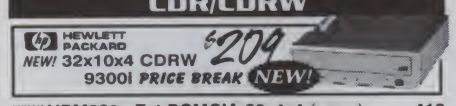

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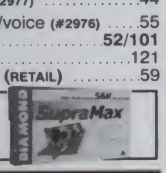

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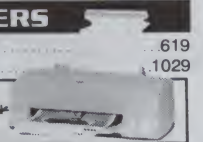

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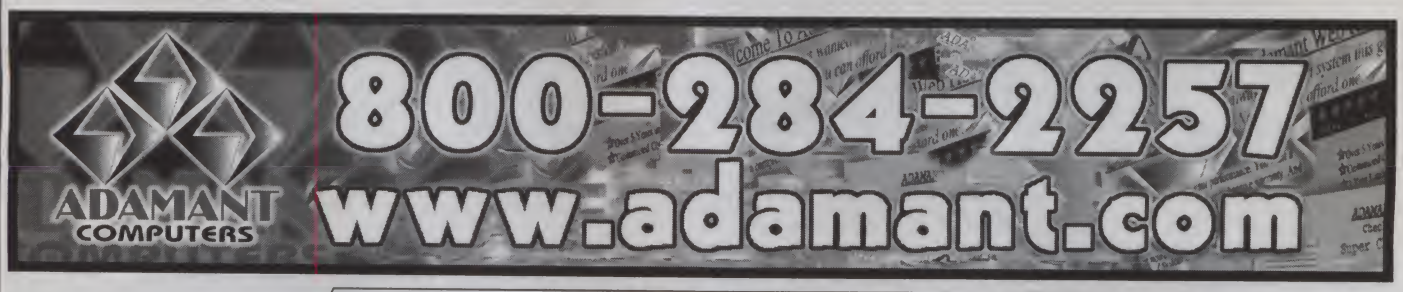

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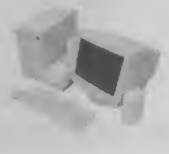

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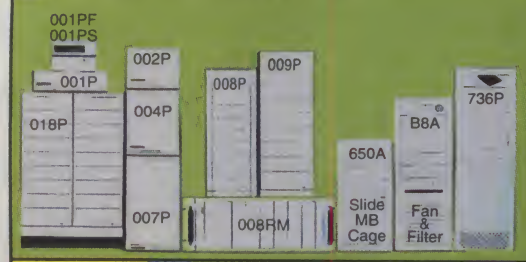

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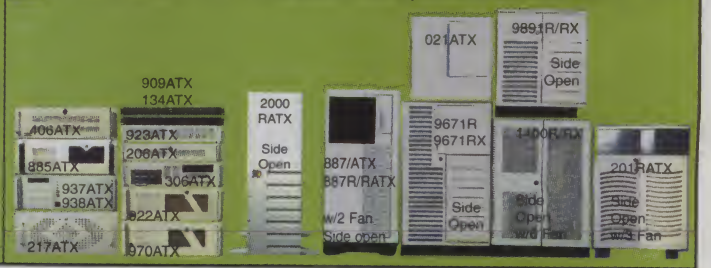

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Model	Price	PS
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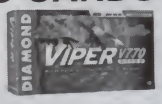

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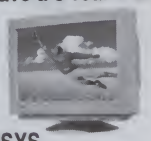

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- **370DE6**-2xP3,**7899**/160MB,Lan,133 FSB.....$565
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- 1U Risercard for 2nd Lan card
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- PS/2 104 keyboard & MS-Mouse
- **Black 1U/19" Rackmount**

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CS

reach out and see someone

setting up your system for videoconferencing

by neil randall

For communicating with colleagues, clients, classmates, or even cousins, e-mail and chat work fine—but sometimes people simply have to get together face to face to hash things out. When you can't get all the participants in the same room, desktop videoconferencing offers a viable substitute. It provides a means to collaborate in real time, without the expense of traveling or investing in the expensive equipment often found in high-end videoconferencing systems. By hooking up an inexpensive PC video camera and installing conferencing software on your desktop system, you can set up a desktop videoconferencing system that will let you meet whenever you wish at a modest cost.

A videoconferencing setup requires at least two PCs connected over the Internet or across a local area network (LAN). Each system requires a video camera, a sound card with a headset attached (or a microphone and speakers), and conferencing software. Two outstanding software products for this purpose are Microsoft NetMeeting ***(www.microsoft.com/netmeeting)*** and CUseeMe Pro ***(www.cuseeme.com)***. NetMeeting is free and offers stronger program-sharing capabilities, but only two participants (of up to eight) can videoconference with each other at one time. CUseeMe Pro allows up to 12 simultaneous videoconference participants.

Conferencing software lets the participants chat with one another and share ideas on a whiteboard. They can exchange files on the fly and share applications by running them on one machine—allowing other users not only to see that application but even to control it from their computers. In fact, some programs allow one participant to control another participant's entire desktop. Live audio and video let people talk to and see each other, and to hold up objects for examination.

The IBM/Xirlink PC Camera Pro Max connects easily via USB.

Audio and video quality depends directly on the speed of your network connections. If all the systems are connecting through a 100Mbps LAN, video quality will be high, and audio and visual delays will be minimized. Over a 10Mbps HomePNA 2.0 phone-line network, video starts to get jerky, and audio is delayed. If you connect through the Internet using a standard dial-up modem or even a DSL or cable connection, things slow even further—and because these types of connections have upstream speeds slower than the downstream transmission, the quality of the audio and video signals you send will be adversely affected. Still, for most users the Internet is the only viable way to participate in a videoconference, so we focus here on how to make an Internet-based connection.

Here are the steps required to set up a two-participant videoconferencing system over the Internet. We'll assume that you have another participant available, and that both of you are connected to the Internet. For our setup, we chose the $129-estimated IBM/Xirlink PC Camera Pro Max camera ***(www.xirlink.com/ibmpccamera)***, an inexpensive headset, and NetMeeting software.

step 1

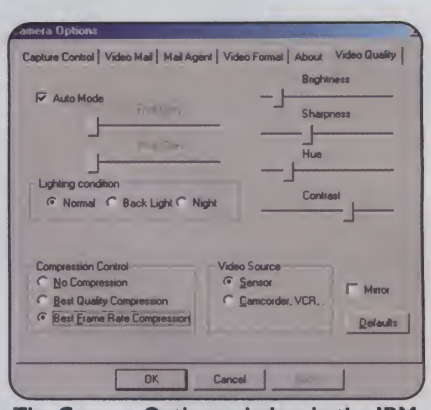
Plug the headset into the sound card. The headset has two audio connectors. One plugs into the sound card's microphone jack, the other into the speaker jack. If you can't tell the plugs apart, plug one into the speaker port first, then listen to the earphone while you play an audio CD or a sound file. If you hear the audio, you're properly connected. Then test the microphone by opening Windows' Sound Recorder applet and making a short recording of your voice.

The headset has two audio connectors, which are connected to your sound card's microphone and speaker jacks.

step 2

Next up is the video camera. The PC Camera Pro Max installation instructions had us run the Install app before we connected the camera. The system rebooted, and we plugged the camera's interface cable into our system's USB port. The camera's drivers then loaded automatically.

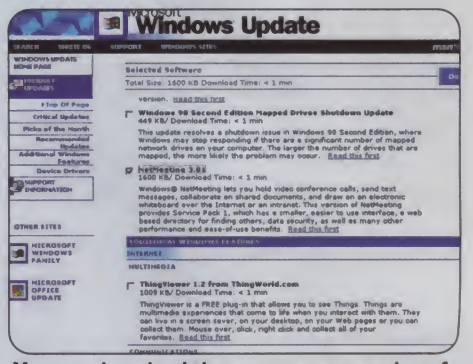
We then opened the IBM PC Camera application from the desktop. A video window appeared, and the image brightened as the camera adjusted to the room's lighting. We accessed the Camera Options window and adjusted the video for settings such as brightness, contrast, lighting conditions, and compression. Your particular camera might differ in its installation and setup, but most cameras work similarly.



The Camera Options window in the IBM PC Camera application can fine-tune the image quality of the camera.

step 3

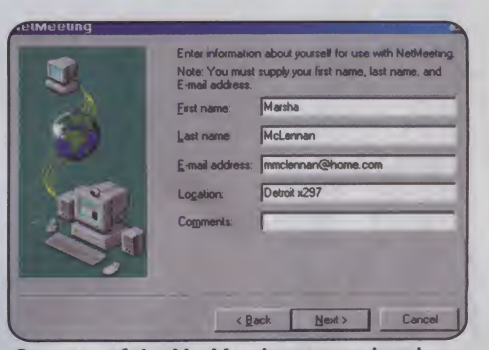
The conferencing software we opted to use was NetMeeting, which comes bundled with the PC Camera Pro Max. Instead of installing it from the included disc, however, we chose to download it from Microsoft's Web site to ensure we had the latest version. An easy way to download and install it is by using the Windows Update utility.



You can download the most recent version of NetMeeting using the Windows Update utility.

step 4

Start NetMeeting and step through its detailed setup wizard. First, you'll need to provide the information about yourself that will appear to other participants in the conference. You'll be asked if you wish to log on to a directory server when NetMeeting starts. Go ahead and enable this feature. You then specify the type of connection through which you'll be videoconferencing. The choices are 14,400-bps modem, 28,800-bps (or faster) modem, cable or DSL modem, or LAN. Answer this question depending on how you physically connect to the Internet. And if you have more than one video-capture device on your computer, make sure to select the camera you just installed.



One step of the NetMeeting setup wizard asks you to input the personal information that will be visible to other participants.

step 5

The setup wizard now tests your audio capabilities. Even if you tested these on your own, go through this process to ensure that

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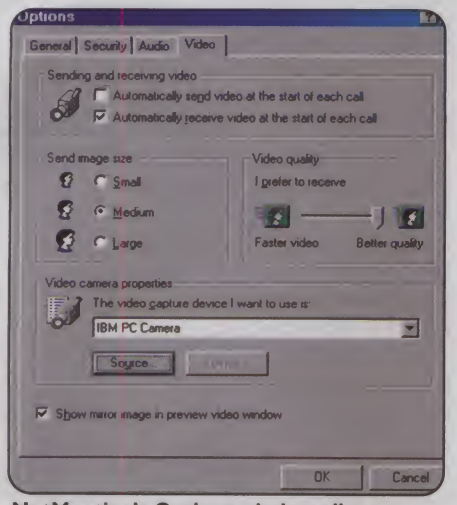
NetMeeting works properly with your equipment.

Tip: If the microphone isn't functioning, open Options/Properties in Windows' Volume Control, select the Recording radio button, confirm that the Mic radio button is enabled, click OK, and make sure that the microphone isn't muted and that its volume level is set high enough.

step 6

With the wizard taken care of, NetMeeting will now load. Put on your headset and test the video by clicking the Video button. Position the camera so that you are centered in the window and are looking directly at it, so as to simulate a face-to-face discussion. Don't forget to focus the camera, making sure the image is as sharp as possible.



NetMeeting's Options window allows you to tweak the quality of the video image.

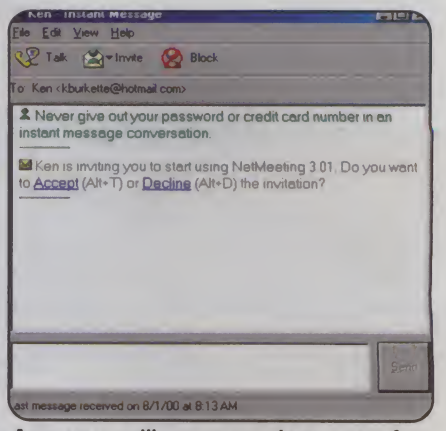
Tip: Under Tools/Options/Video, adjust the Faster Video/Better Quality slider until you find a balance between speed and quality that's acceptable to you. For example, with slower connections, you'll want to move the slider to the far left toward the Faster Video setting—sacrificing quality for speed.

step 7

With all participants at their computers, logged onto the Internet, wearing a headset, and visible through the camera on their NetMeeting video windows, it's time to initiate the conference. The easiest way to start a conference is for one person to "call" the other's computer directly. To do this, you need to know the other system's IP address. This number can be found in NetMeeting by selecting About Windows NetMeeting from the Help menu. When you know the IP address you are calling, type it into the Address bar in NetMeeting. Then click the Call icon (the telephone icon next to this field). The other user will see a message indicating an incoming call, and that person must click on Accept to start the session.

Type the IP address of the person you'll conference with into the Address bar.

Using an IP address is the easiest way to connect, but it's not the only one. Another method is to connect through a directory. Both participants must first register with a directory server (either through NetMeeting's setup wizard or by registering an account with MSN), then type the server name and username of the person with whom they want to conference. The default server for NetMeeting is the Microsoft Internet Directory, but you can find additional servers at ***www.netmeet.net/bestservers.asp***. You can also initiate a NetMeeting session from within MSN Messenger itself. (Both users must be logged on to MSN at the same time, but MSN need not be your ISP.)



A message will pop up on the screen of the person being "called," inviting that person to participate in a conference.

step 8

Once the connection is established, try talking to each other to make sure the audio works. If the other participant's video image isn't showing, click the Video button to open the video pane. Now try applets from NetMeeting's Tools menu, such as Chat and Whiteboard. Next try sharing a program while talking to each other and holding things in front of the camera for the other person to see. This is what videoconferencing is all about. ▼

NetMeeting's Whiteboard window

NetMeeting's Video window

online resources

If you're using Microsoft NetMeeting, keep in touch with ***www.microsoft.com/netmeeting*** to see what's new. An excellent source of NetMeeting news, tips, and information is the NetMeeting Zone at ***www.netmeet.net***. If you're looking for a good, simple explanation of how videoconferencing works, check out VideoTalk at ***www.videotalk.co.uk/intro.html***. A bit more technical, but equally informative and helpful, are CUseeMe's white papers at ***www.wpine.com/whitepapers***. And for a comprehensive list of links to desktop videoconferencing products, go to ***www3.ncsu.edu/dox/video/products.html***.

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GO-GO GRAPHICS

Dear Alfred:

I want to install a new graphics adapter in my system to get better game performance. Should I go with an AGP or a PCI card? Are there any installation problems I should be aware of?

Lawrence Harris

All other factors being equivalent, you want to get the AGP version of a graphics card. AGP allows display data to be written directly from system memory, rather than having to go through the PCI bus, which may already be loaded with other data traffic.

As for installation, be sure to read the instructions before you do anything. As a general rule, it is a good idea to change your display driver to Standard SVGA before you shut down the computer and remove the old card. This all but ensures that Windows will be able to display an image using the new card before you install its drivers. This should eliminate about 90 percent of the installation problems you might encounter.

GAPS IN THE GRID

Dear Alfred:

When printing Excel spreadsheets, some gridlines print and others don't. I've changed the printer's cartridges, uninstalled and reinstalled the driver, and checked the interface cable to see if it was loose. Nothing helps. Any ideas?

Nick Pasich

First, make sure that you have the latest driver for your printer. Next, print a self-test page to make sure that all the jets are firing. If one isn't firing, fine lines might have gaps or be missing altogether. Finally, as a workaround, highlight the cells and choose Format/Cells/Borders, where you can create your own gridlines with thicker lines that may print more reliably.

WHO GOES THERE?

Dear Alfred:

We have a Windows 98 peer-to-peer network. Is there any way of determining the name of the current user at a workstation?

Don Ireland

Open a DOS window, type the command **NET CONFIG,** then press the Enter key. This will display the computer name, username, workgroup, workstation root directory, software version, and redirector version. The NET command has a lot of other useful parameters; type **NET** and press Enter at a DOS prompt to see all the options.

BEAT THE BEEP!

Dear Alfred:

My PC runs for a few minutes, then an annoying, long, steady beep begins. Sometimes it lasts for 10 minutes, but it has also gone on for hours, and it's a recurring event. I found that I can make it stop by pressing the Caps Lock or Num Lock key. How can I banish it permanently?

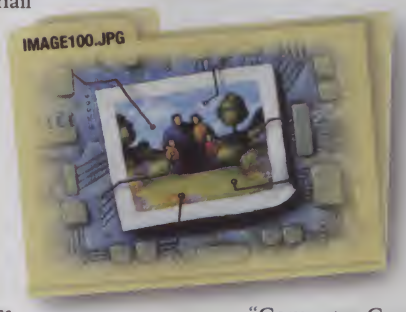
David Merrill

It's either a hardware or software problem. I'm betting on hardware, but test the software suspect first. Reboot your system in Safe Mode, which will provide as simple a Windows environment as possible. If you don't hear the beep, then it's probably caused by a driver or program that you normally have running in Windows. If you do hear the beep in Safe Mode, borrow another keyboard and try it in place of yours. If that cures the beep, I suspect that you've got a sticky or dying key on your keyboard. ▼

tip of the month

EXPLORING WITH PICTURES

You've got that folder full of pictures from your digital camera, and they're labeled with less-than-helpful names such as IMAGE001.JPG or 07120001.JPG. How are you going to find the one you want? A thumbnail image would make things easier, and you can get it right in Windows 98 Explorer, as this month's Tipster points out.



Dear Alfred:

I wanted to see thumbnails in Windows 98's Explorer and discovered a way to get them. Right-click a folder with pictures in it, and choose Properties. Put a check in the "Enable thumbnail view" box, choose Apply, and click OK. Open the folder and choose View/Refresh. Now choose View/Thumbnails.

Philip Schmitt

That's a handy feature, to be sure. Thumbnail views were introduced with Microsoft Internet Explorer 4 and are part of Windows 98. Unfortunately, the format takes up a lot of screen space, and files that don't have thumbnails take up just as much space on the screen as the image files. Also, there's no way to make all the folders exhibit this behavior; you have to change each folder's properties one at a time. As an alternative, consider checking "as Web page" in the Windows Explorer View menu; you'll get a thumbnail of an image file on the left side of the screen, but only when you highlight the file's name. And by choosing View/Folder Options/View, you'll find a Like Current Folder button that will make all your Windows Explorer folders look like the current one.

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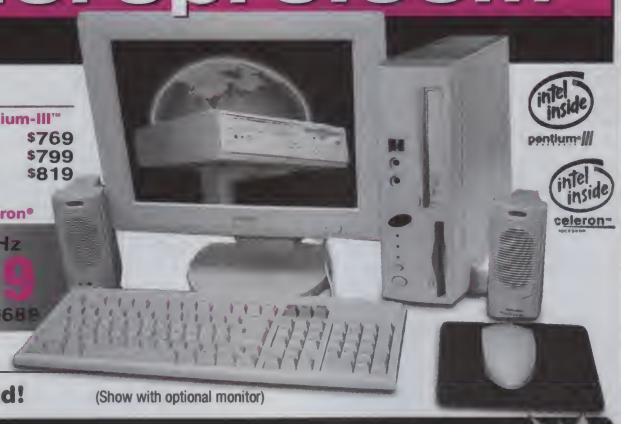

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VA-503A
FIC $89
- VIA Apollo MVP3 + Super South Chipset
- 1MB Pipeline Burst Cache, IDE Ultra DMA/66 Integrated Audio/DirectSound audio
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- Baby AT Size: 8.5" x 9.5"

AMD K6-2 3DNOW Technology
K6-2 500/550 ..... 159/199

S1598 TRINITY 100
TYAN $95
- VIA Apollo MVP3 AGPset
- 100MHz BUS Speed
- 1MB Pipeline Burst Cache
- **IDE ULTRA DMA66**
- TRINITY ATX: 12.0" x 8.3"

S1590 $88

AMD K6-2 3DNOW Technology
K6-2 500/550 ..... 169/209

ASUS P5A
ASUS $94
- Ali M1541 Aladdin V AGPset
- 100MHz BUS Speed
- 512K Pipeline Burst Cache
- ATX Form Factor: 8.3" x 12.0"

P5AB $91

AMD K6-2 3DNOW Technology
K6-2 500 169
K6-2 550 209

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GIGABYTE $129
- Support Single AMD Socket A processor
- (1) AGP, (5) PCI, (1) ISA slots
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1.1GHZ $889

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900/950MHz/1GHz 439/539/669

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TYAN $129
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- (1) AGP, (5) PCI, (1) ISA slots
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1.1GHZ $899

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ECS $99
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D815EEAA
intel $155
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- (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
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ASUS $120
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- (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
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ASUS $155
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- (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
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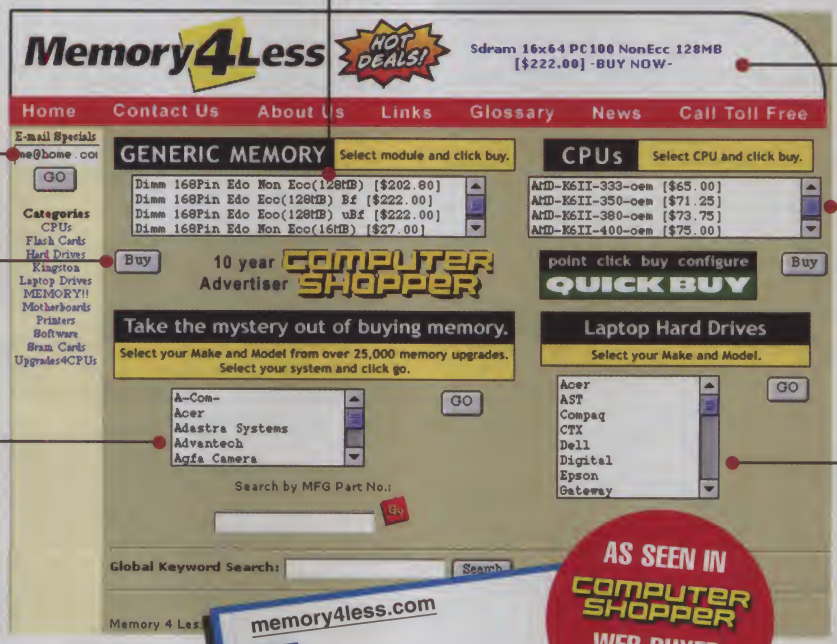

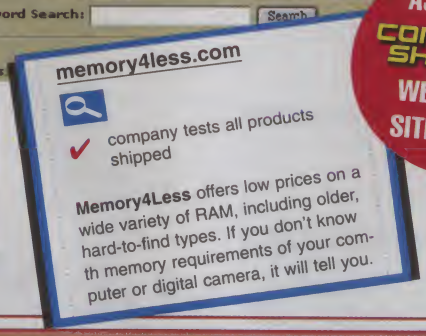

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Workstation 410	75	90	138

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Thinkpad 600, 700, i1400	54	74	139
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4P, 5, 5P, 6, 6p		42	
PANASONIC			
4410, 4430	84		

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CTX			
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Intel Pentium III 700 MHz $860
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Celeron 566 MHz $765

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AMD Thunderbird 850 MHz $1,195
AMD Thunderbird 900 MHz $1,230
AMD Thunderbird 950 MHz $1,330
AMD Thunderbird 1 GHz $1,450

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GT Thunder XL

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- ***n*Vidia GeForce 2 GTS 32MB DDR 3D Graphics Accelerator**
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BUYING ADVISOR

by Asa Somers

The Write Deal

The Advisor forgoes speed in favor of value to find an affordable external CD-RW drive.

NEED TO STORE AND DISTRIBUTE large chunks of data? There's no better way than "burning" CD-R discs, which can handle up to 650MB each. And even if your computer is short on expansion bays, you can add an external drive that will write data to discs that can be read by almost any CD-ROM drive.

Finding one on a tight budget can be a challenge, however. Just ask Eric Garza, a 16-year-old high-school senior from San Antonio, Texas, who is weighing the options of purchasing a CD-Recordable (CD-R) or CD-Rewritable (CD-RW) burner to beef up his Sony VAIO PCV-E203 desktop computer. Garza is interested in making music CDs, but he'd also like to use the drive for a business he's cooking up with his mother.

"I'm experimenting with setting up a Web page for a home-based wedding service my mother is trying to start," he says. "A CD-RW drive will be very useful to transport edited pictures of previous weddings to friends, family, and, more important, prospective clients."

A CD burner seems like a sound business decision, but finding the right one may be a bit of a task. That's because Garza's VAIO has no empty drive bays, so he'll have to go with an external model, which is often more expensive. And that's the catch: He's looking for a drive priced under $200, but says he can go a little higher. Fortunately, the speed of the drive isn't terribly important to Garza, which is helpful because finding a fast drive in this price range would be next to impossible.

HP CD-Writer Plus 8220e

When shopping for a CD-RW drive, the first issue to consider is the interface. While the most common Enhanced IDE (EIDE) drives are generally internal models, external models based on SCSI, USB, and even IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interfaces are now available. Each has its own benefits and drawbacks.

FireWire drives are new and fairly pricey. But thanks to the fast performance and quick setup inherent to the technology, more are surely on their way, which means that prices will drop. Of the remaining options, external SCSI drives deliver performance equivalent to EIDE drives and often read faster and are less prone to errors. Still, they are harder to set up and often don't include a necessary SCSI card, which can inflate the overall price of the drive.

USB-based drives are the easiest to configure, thanks to the true plug-and-play nature of the interface, and are moderately priced. But because the USB port isn't designed to handle superfast throughput, the drives are much slower.

The one other consideration is the speed of the drive, but this will be limited mainly by price. CD-RW drives come with three speed ratings—for writing, rewriting, and reading—each expressed as a numeral followed by an *x*. The *x* stands for 150K/sec. A 4x/4x/24x drive writes and rewrites at a maximum throughput of 600K/sec and reads at a maximum 3.6MB/sec. Remember that these are theoretical ratings given for the drive under optimal system conditions, which means you'll rarely see such good throughput.

The benefits of a fast drive are obvious: It saves you time. While a 4x writer/rewriter takes about 20 minutes to create a full CD-R or CD-RW disk, an 8x writer takes half as long.

If you characterize yourself as a fairly technically savvy user, as Garza does, and you have a system with an internal drive slot to spare, we heartily recommend an internal EIDE drive. You'll probably be up to the challenge of installing the drive, you'll save money, and you'll gain a sizable performance bump.

Garza's budgetary and drive-bay constraints being what they are, however, we'd have to recommend a fully plug-and-play USB-based drive. First, we found the **APS CD-RW USB Pro2** drive, available direct from the company for $250 plus shipping ***(www.apstech.com)***. This 4x/4x/24x CD-RW offers a reasonably fast CD-ROM read speed for the price, and it's compatible with PCs and Macs. But it's a bit over budget.

On to Onvia.com, where we discovered the **Iomega ZipCD External USB Drive** for $220.55 (including shipping). This 4x/4x/6x unit includes CD-creation software from Adaptec.

But for sheer affordability, we recommend the **HP CD-Writer Plus 8220e,** which we found for $211.68 (including shipping) at Onvia. The 4x/4x/6x drive also includes CD-creation software from Adaptec, in addition to CD-labeling software and printing apps. HP drives generally perform well, and given its bargain-basement price, the 8220e delivers a good mix of affordability and usability.

CHALLENGE

USER PROFILE

Eric Garza, a high-school student looking for a CD-RW drive for storing digital photography and music files

COMPUTING NEEDS

An external USB drive that's priced at roughly $200

SOLUTION

THE ADVISOR'S CHOICE

The **Iomega ZipCD External USB Drive** is a pretty great deal at $220.55 (including shipping). Its speed is rated at 4x/4x/6x, and the drive includes CD-creation software from Adaptec. But an even better buy is the **HP CD-Writer Plus 8220e,** which we found for $211.68 (including shipping) at Onvia.com. This 4x/4x/6x drive also includes CD-creation software from Adaptec, plus CD-labeling software and printing apps.

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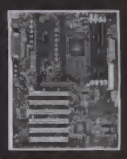

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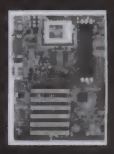

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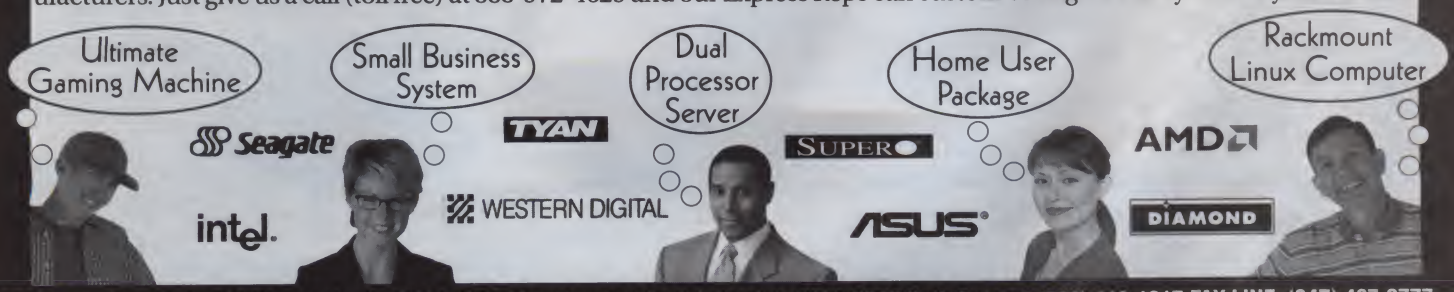

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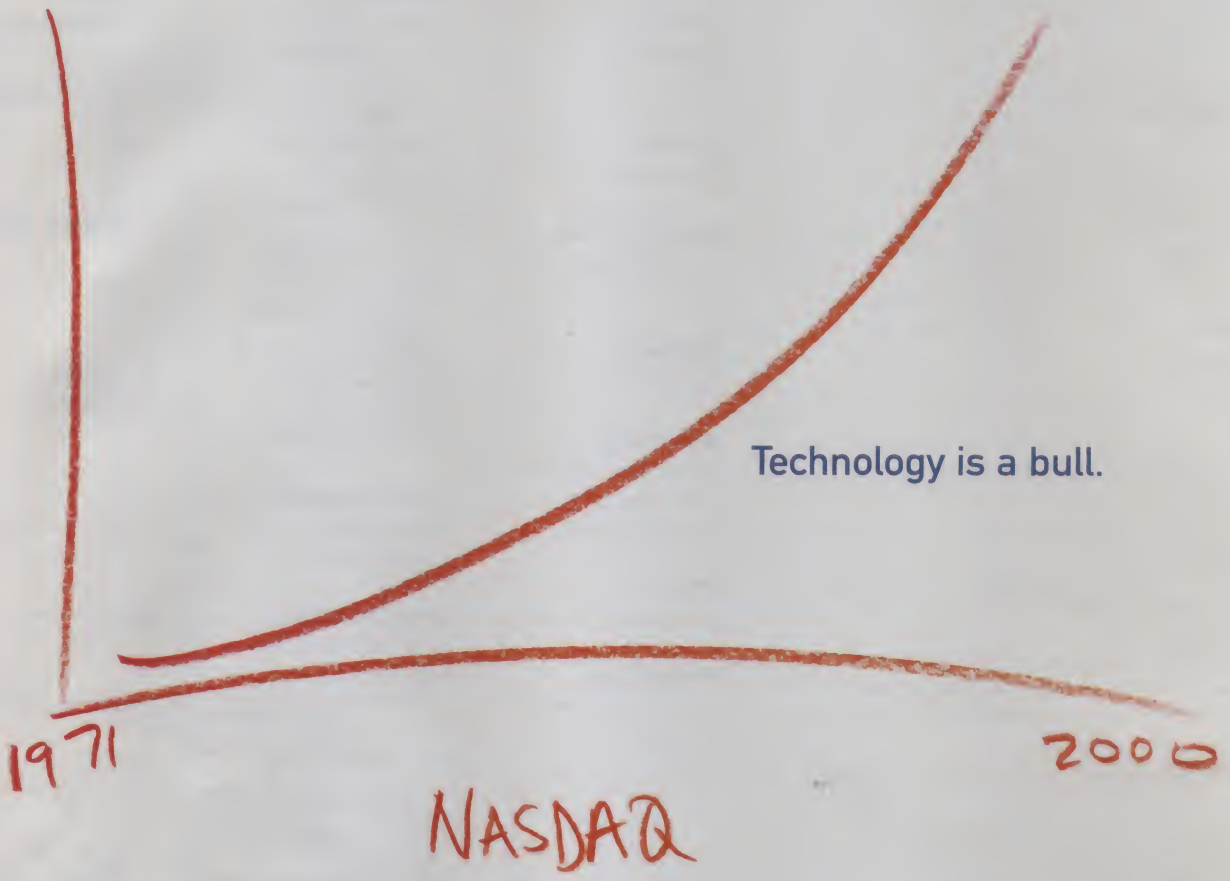

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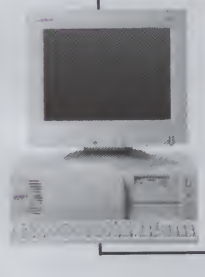

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20 ways to shop smart online

how to shop safe

1 Make Your Connection Secure

Before you submit any sensitive or private information about yourself—especially your credit-card number—make sure that the data will be encrypted and transmitted over a secure connection. Both your browser and the Web site's server should support industry standards, such as Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) or Secure Sockets Layer (SSL).

2 Protect Your Passwords

Don't create a password based on information that can be easily discovered, such as your birth date, telephone number, or Social Security number. Instead, use a unique combination of at least five letters, numbers, or symbols.

3 Protect Your Privacy

Take a moment to read the company's privacy policy, which should detail what information the site collects and how it will be used.

Limit your exposure by filling out online forms carefully. Don't volunteer optional information. Instead, provide only the information required to complete a transaction.

Never divulge information—such as your mother's maiden name—that can be used to gain unauthorized access to your accounts.

Various free and fee-based Web services will let you surf and shop anonymously. For example, Anonymizer (***www.anonymizer.com***) or Privada (***www.privada.net***) will let you visit Web sites without revealing your name or e-mail address.

4 Use an Insured Payment Method

Paying for your online purchases with a credit or charge card isn't just convenient—it's smart. Your transaction is protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act, which gives you the right to dispute charges and to withhold payment until the dispute is settled. In addition, if your credit or charge card is used fraudulently, you are normally liable for only $50 of the total amount.

Cash payments are increasingly common on the Internet, thanks to online auction sites. For large sums, you should use a fee-based escrow service, such as i-Escrow (***www.iescrow.com***) or Tradesafe (***www.tradesafe.com***).

5 Check References

Look for the Better Business Bureau Online Reliability Seal (***www.bbbonline.org***), which guarantees that a company has been in business for a minimum of one year, has become a member of a local Better Business Bureau, and agrees to arbitration in case of a dispute.

BizRate (***www.bizrate.com***) conducts customer surveys and publishes ratings for categories such as quality of merchandise, quality of customer service, and timeliness of shipping.

Auction sites such as eBay (***www.ebay.com***) provide a feedback section, where purchasers can comment on the reliability of individual sellers.

6 Check the Terms of the Sale

Reputable online retailers display the terms and conditions of the sale, including warranties on the merchandise, limitations of liability, and return and refund policies. Some sites display this information prominently on a "click-wrap" screen that requires you to accept the terms before completing the purchase. Other sites provide links to the information.

7 Include Taxes and Shipping

Scrutinize the shipping and handling fees tacked onto your bill. Per-item fees and expedited shipping methods can bloat the total purchase price. Look for sites that offer low-cost shipping methods or that deliver free of charge when you place a large order. Charging sales tax is required by law in many states.

8 Double-Check Order Forms

Before you finalize a purchase, proofread your order form. Typos, such as typing "22" instead of "2," can be costly mistakes. If your shipping address differs from your billing address, there is no way for the vendor to confirm its accuracy, so double-check it yourself. You should also make sure that the pricing information you see onscreen is absolutely current and not an old price from a page that was cached on your system during a previous visit.

9 Estimate the Delivery Date

The seller should inform you of an approximate delivery date. Federal Trade Commission rules state that if the seller does not specify a time period in which the product will be shipped, the merchant must either ship the product within 30 days, or notify you of the delay and offer to cancel the order and refund your money.

10 Complain About Problems

If you do experience a problem with an online purchase, notify the company immediately. Check the Web site for a toll-free phone number, an e-mail address, or links to customer service. If the company itself does not resolve the problem, contact the Better Business Bureau (***www.bbbonline.org***), the Federal Trade Commission at ***www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm,*** or your state attorney general's office (***www.naag.org***).

save time & money

1 Charge It

Don't pay by check: Always use a credit card or e-cash whenever you buy online.

2 Look for Seals

Look for seals of approval—from Yahoo, TRUSTe, and the Better Business Bureau. These ensure that the company is legitimate and that your personal information will be protected.

3 Get Help

When you have questions, use online customer-service support features, including online chat and voice-over-IP functions, as well as toll-free numbers.

4 Buy Big

Consider buying smaller items such as printer toner cartridges, diskettes, Zip disks, and cables in volume to save money.

5 Save and Print

Save a copy of your online order receipt by saving the Web page locally. For extra security, print it out.

6 Clip and Save

Almost all vendors offer coupons and rebates, but few consumers bother to find them.

7 Track Your Delivery

Pay attention to shipping information and options to learn when your order is supposed to arrive. If at all possible, get a tracking number.

8 Buy Used

Check closeout or refurbished product sections. These often include amazing bargains. Just make sure they include some sort of warranty.

9 Search Smart

Use bots, or automated search engines, to compare prices among resellers. But be aware of possible bias—some bots are hosted by sites that also sell products.

10 Be Specific

If you know the name and model number, enter them for much faster searching.

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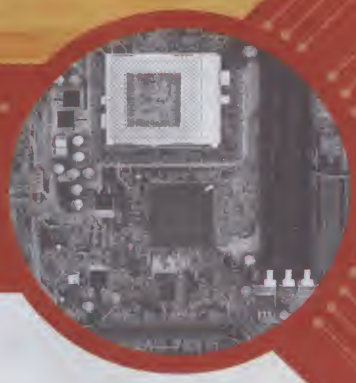

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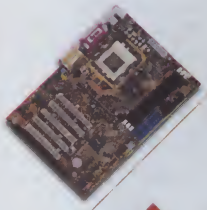
- AC'97 sound
- ATX form factor



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- Ultra DMA 33/66 supported
- AC'97 sound or Creative 1373 sound optional
- ATX form factor

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Business Traveler's Survival Tips

1 MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

Money talks, nobody walks, so if your business takes you overseas, put that WAP-enabled cell phone to work to find the latest currency-exchange rates for the country you're visiting. Oanda Corp.'s Currency Site ***(www.oanda.com)*** offers a WAP currency converter so you can get wireless updates using a phone such as the Nokia 7110.

2 PIN DOWN AN ATM MACHINE

The next best thing to money is plastic—as in an ATM card. The Visa ATM Locator ***(www.visa.com/pd/atm/main.html)*** makes it easy to find that company's ATM machines; just type in a street, building name, city, or postal code, and a map appears showing the ATM locations. You can also download software for a Palm VII that lets you find Visa ATMs wirelessly via Palm.net. MasterCard International has a similar ATM locator service ***(www.mastercard.com/atm)*** that lists ATM addresses for international locations and includes maps for ATM locations in North America.

3 YOU LEFT HOME WITHOUT IT?

If you travel with an American Express card, be sure to bookmark the company's International Service Centers locator page ***(home4.americanexpress.com/cust_serv/international/phone.asp)***. The centers can help you get mail and traveler's checks while you're traveling, and make travel arrangements.

4 AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TIP THE PAPER BOY

Want to bone up on Belgium before your meeting in Antwerp? Go to Escape Artist's World Press & Media Index ***(www.escapeartist.com/media/media.htm)*** for online access to hundreds of international newspapers.

5 IS IT CHILLY IN CHILE?

Check out the weather before you get there, so you can pack accordingly for your next business trip. CNN offers current international weather and forecasts ***(www.cnn.com/weather)***. For weather in U.S. cities, take a look at EarthWatch's Weather on Demand ***(www.earthwatch.com)***. Another very useful site, OnlineWeather.com ***(www.onlineweather.com)***, lets you use your WAP phone to get weather reports. The Weather Channel ***(www.weather.com)*** also offers wireless weather via your pager or digital PCS phone at prices starting at 6 cents per day. If you're addicted to TV weather reports, tune into the Weather Channel's audio/visual forecasts for U.S. cities.

6 OVERSEAS CYBER SCHMOOZE

The handy Biztravelclub ***(www.biztravelclub.com)*** offers the business traveler a virtual home away from home. Become a member (free for now), and post your itinerary before you travel. When you get to your destination, you can check out which other Biztravelclub members are in town, do a little networking, and maybe find a great restaurant or strike some new business deals.

7 TIMELY PREPARATIONS

Time is on your side if you use Time and Date's World Clock ***(www.timeanddate.com)*** to see the time differences between locations worldwide. The site has a handy meeting planner you can use to set up chats crossing time zones—without waking anyone in the middle of the night.

8 SPEAK LIKE THE NATIVES

Impress your overseas clients or customers by learning to say a few phrases in their native tongue. Drop in at TravLang ***(www.travlang.com)*** and take a few online language lessons. The site uses RealAudio so you can hear exactly how to pronounce the formerly foreign phrases. TravLang's many translating dictionaries will also come in handy when poring over those e-mails written in Dutch, Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Afrikaans, and Czech.

9 NO, A CENTIGRAM ISN'T AN INSECT

A miss is as good as a mile if you're traveling in a country that uses the metric system—and most do. VirtualTourist ***(www.virtualtourist.com)*** has a handy metric conversion tool, so you'll know exactly how many kilometers it is to your next meeting.

10 KNOW WHEN NOT TO WORK

Wonder why nobody showed up for your big meeting in Bombay? Maybe it's because you scheduled it for August 15, Indian Independence Day. The Worldwide Holiday & Festival Site ***(www.holidayfestival.com)*** lists holidays and public festivities for more than 100 countries, territories, and regions.

11 DON'T OFFEND THE FRENCH

You thought your French clients were just plain rude, but maybe it's because *you* don't know how to act in France. The Business Travel Etiquette Club ***(www.traveletiquette.com)*** will help you learn the business customs, protocols, and rules of French etiquette. ▼

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- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 33.6k fax modem

Pentium 150 processor 32/2.1 gig Active 6x CD

Dell $549

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- 32 meg ram
- 2.1 gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
- 16 bit sound card
- 6x cd rom, 1.44 floppy
- Trackball & pcmcia slot
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 33.6k fax

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IBM $499

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- 121" Active Color
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- 12.1" Active Color
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- 810 meg HDD
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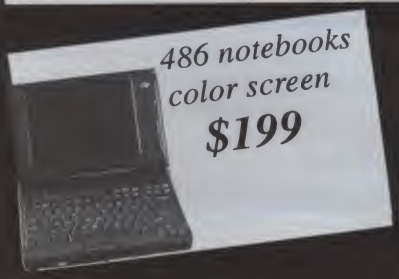

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Do You Have the Right Connections?

You need the right connections to get ahead, and that could mean a lot more than surviving a change of planes in Chicago. If you need to stay wired while you're abroad, an array of gadgets can make keeping in touch a lot easier. A few devices can relieve your notebook of some of its duties and spare you the backache of carrying it everywhere. Even if your travel plans take you only across a state line or two, several take-alongs are still worth considering.

Confusion in the air is no longer limited to ticket prices. These days the airlines are experimenting with an endless variety of consumer electronics, from personal videotape players to CD-ROM/DVD drives to whatever it takes to lure the wired traveler onboard.

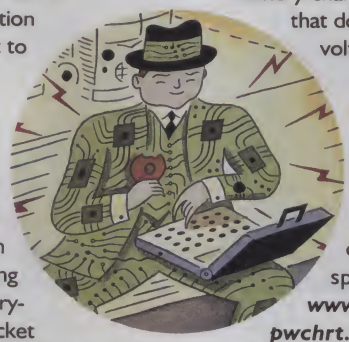
Such goodies started in the front cabin, worked their way into business class, and are now trickling toward the tail section. As a result, you'll find more and more power outlets available and—depending on a mixture of supply, luck, and the mood of the flight attendant—perhaps the right cable to connect your laptop and give the batteries a rest.

To play it safe, though, add your own cable to your carry-on gadget bag. If you already have a car adapter cable (for a cigarette-lighter receptacle), a short accessory cable will adapt it for airline use. Or you can buy an all-in-one set consisting of both cables and an assortment of adapters to accommodate the power connector on many computers.

Because all-in-one often means "all except the one you need," it's a good idea to specify your computer model when ordering. Depending on your needs, prices range from under $20 to about $100. Also check your favorite airline's power plans. If it doesn't have any, pick another favorite.

DIMINUTIVE DINNER COMPANION

Sure, you love that laptop, but when was the last time you invited it to dinner? It's a nuisance to launch some translation software just to get you through the mysteries of a foreign menu, but if you can't tell a *choros* from a *chorizo*, bring along a battery-operated pocket scanner, run it over the mystery item, and you'll have the English equivalent at your fingertips. Or use it in reverse to show the waiter the significance of "cheeseburger." Quickwiz Technologies' Quicktionary ***(www.quickwiz.com/quicktionary)*** translates English to and from a single language ($169.95), and the Quicktionary Multi ($199.95) handles English, French, and German translation.



Meanwhile, back at the hotel room or in some overseas office, your laptop will likely be just as happy with either choice on the electrical menu: North American-style 110 AC volts, or overseas 220 volts. Just use the proper adapter to plug in, and as they say in New Zealand, "You're away laughing."

You'll be away crying, however, if you think the same convenience applies to all your plug-in gadgetry. Most battery chargers operate on one voltage only, and plugging a 110-volt charger into a 220-volt receptacle will damage it, and possibly you too. Some hotels offer a 110-volt receptacle in the bathroom, but don't count on it. Even if it's there, don't expect it to work. Instead, add two items to your gadget bag: a power adapter plug and a step-down transformer. The "power adapter" phrase is misleading, because the adapter has zero effect on the power delivered. It's nothing more than a physical interface to adapt your American-style plug to fit the local AC receptacle. It's all you need to get your dual-voltage PC running, but you'll also need the step-down transformer if you're packing a battery charger or other devices that don't operate on 220 volts.

If you need to verify the electrical service at your destination, Visicomm Industries offers a convenient table of specifications at ***www.50hz.com/pwchrt.htm*** and an illustrated list of adapter plugs at ***www.50hz.com/plugs.html.*** If you'd rather have a printed reference, Claitor's Law Books and Publishing Division offers a 30-page booklet, *Electric Current Abroad, 1998,* for $2 with much of the same info. You can order it at ***www.claitors.com/prf/catelog/003-009-00673-2.html***—make sure to use the odd spelling of "catalog" in the URL.

Once you know what you need, you can order the actual adapters and a transformer from iGo.com. You can request a catalog from the site or call 800-228-8374. One handy item (#46835) is a little cube with a variety of AC plug blades. Just connect it to your American plug, then use the blade pair that fits the nearest receptacle. For safety, the others are disabled. Though bulky, it's a great tool when venturing into the unknown. Otherwise, just get the single and much smaller connector you need for the location you're visiting.

MODEM MADNESS

With your computer operational, the next trick is to get your modem to work. If you're lucky, your hotel-room phone will have a data port that accepts the ubiquitous U.S.-style RJ-11 phone plug. But you'll need a phone-plug adapter if you're working out of an overseas office that is not so equipped. Unfortunately, some 30-odd "standard" connectors are in use worldwide (some more odd than others), and some countries use two or more of them. For an interesting glimpse at the baffling variety, check out WalkAbout Travel Gear's illustrations—and of course, ordering details—at ***www.walkabouttravelgear.com.*** Also scan its great collection of travel tips. You won't find much information about gadgetry, but instead lots of "Why didn't I think of that?" ideas.

Once you've made the physical connection, you're still not home free. Among the obstacles are rotary-dial phones, and in the case of touch-tone dialing, a different set of tones than those at home. This doesn't matter if you're making a simple phone call, but if you need to press certain numbers to access voice mail or to reach an extension once connected, the home-office system won't recognize the tones it hears, and you may lose the connection. The Phone Dialer applet in Windows is no help at all: It's so "smart" that it listens for a dial tone and won't work if it

doesn't hear one, making it useless when it's needed most. For a convenient, low-tech, under-$20 solution, bring along a pocket tone dialer from RadioShack. Just hold it to the mouthpiece and punch in the required numbers.

If you occasionally misplace your business associate ("You *said* we were going to meet at the fountain!"), consider a pair of TalkAbout radio phones from Motorola ***(www.motorola.com/talkabout)***. Weighing less than 6 ounces, the TalkAbout fits in your pocket and comes with a belt holster. Maximum operating range is specified at 2 miles in flat open terrain. In field tests, the TalkAbouts worked well with one user indoors and the other within a radius of several blocks, and they also did fine on the trail—certainly better than sprinkling bread crumbs.

DIGITAL FILM

If you need to pack a digital camera on your business trip, you need a battery charger. You also need a convenient means of transferring files between camera and computer. PC Card adapters for both CompactFlash and SmartMedia cards are available for about $30 and $50, respectively. Or consider the FlashPath, which looks and acts like a floppy, but isn't a floppy. Just slip a SmartMedia card into the FlashPath device, and insert it into your notebook's floppy drive. Your notebook thinks it's just another floppy, and the files are immediately ready for transfer.

If your notebook doesn't have a floppy drive, but it does have a USB port, use Lexar Media's Jumpshot Connectivity Kit instead. It consists of a USB-enabled CompactFlash card and a USB interface cable. Just pop the CompactFlash card out of the camera and into the interface cable, connect the cable to the computer, and you have an instant external drive. Copy the image files to your hard drive and reuse the card for the next round of photos. For more details on the kit, go to ***www.lexarmedia.com***. Keep in mind that not all CompactFlash cards will function with the USB interface cable, so make sure you see a "USB-enabled" logo.

MISCELLANEA

Finally, a few gadgets you already know about deserve a repeat mention so you don't accidentally leave home without them. A random sampling of stateside hotels reveals that even when the phone has a data port, it's apt to be dead or miswired—or the phone line is digital, which is bad news (can you say "zap"?) for an analog modem. The $39 Modem Saver Plus from iGo.com has LEDs to indicate a safe line, a polarity reversal, or a dead connection. Polarity reversals are probably a nonissue, because most old modems that had problems with such lines are long gone by now. If all is well with the jack, leave the Modem Saver in place anyway and plug the modem line into it, letting the device serve as an inline surge protector. The $59 Modem Saver International adds a filter to eliminate the high-frequency impulse signals that some countries use for tax purposes.

Don't forget to pack an extra length of phone cable, and one of those female-to-female RJ-11 adapters. Plug both ends of that phone cable into it while on the move to protect the adapter tabs against breakage. And when you finally get settled in a room where the phone lacks a data port and is connected to a wall socket behind an immovable piece of furniture, just disconnect the phone and, if necessary, use the adapter and your own phone line as an extension. This option becomes an absolute necessity if your PC Card cable has a proprietary connector at the modem end and an RJ-11 at the other. The adapter is also handy for checking the hotel's phone cable. Disconnect the cable from the phone, plug it into the adapter, and plug your Modem Saver probe into the other end of the adapter.

There's still one more gadget to consider: an extra modem. The life span of your favorite modem is probably less than that of your computer, and an on-the-road death is never pleasant, especially if your own life depends on staying in touch. You may be able to run to the local computer store for a replacement, but only if there is a local store. If not, you'll be glad you double-packed. ▼

Travel Globally, Connect Locally

The local access number you use to log on to the Internet from your home or office would be a pricey long-distance call from the road. To avoid long-distance charges, you need to find a local number, or point of presence (POP), for the town you're visiting.

If there was ever an excuse to have an AOL or CompuServe

account, this is it. These services have more local POPs than any other ISP. If you're already an AOL member, you'll find the list of phone numbers within the service. Otherwise, check out the list of U.S. and international city access numbers at ZDNet, *Computer Shopper*'s parent company ***(www8.zdnet.com/pcmag/special/roadwarrior/aolcsi.htm)***. Mindspring ***(www.mindspring.com)*** offers a global roaming service with close to 2,400 POPs in more than 65 countries. Sprint has dial-up connections in 170 countries, but you need an ID number from Sprint and special software or scripting before you can connect, so plan ahead and visit the site for information on domestic and overseas access ***(www.sprintbiz.com/apps/ipdial_list)***.

Sometimes the best access is toll-free access. It's not really free; ISPs charge you an hourly rate to use the number (AOL and CompuServe charge $6), but it's easier—and often cheaper—than using a local access number. You'll find toll-free numbers for ATTNet, Sprint, and other major ISPs at ZDNet ***(www.zdnet.com/pcmag/special/roadwarrior/ispinfo.htm)***.

Also consider a free ISP. Many offer local access numbers in U.S. cities and towns. Just make sure the number is local from where you're connecting. Well-known free ISPs include NetZero ***(www.netzero.com)***, AltaVista ***(www.zdnet.com/downloads/altavista)***, FreeLane ***(freelane.excite.com)***, and iFreedom.com, which serves both the United States and Canada. For more free ISPs, check out About.com's Freebies ***(freebies.about.com/shopping/freebies/msub29.htm)*** and dotNow ***(www.dotnow.com)***.

Whichever method you choose, remember to collect phone numbers before the trip or at least one stop ahead while you still have Internet access.

For brief e-mail sessions from overseas, the easiest way to access your account is to bite the bullet and place a long-distance call to your home ISP number. A few minutes online won't cost much.

An even better option in many cities is to locate the nearest Internet café, sample the local brand of coffee, have a snack, and grab an hour of Internet time. You'll find locations, operating hours, and costs for many of the world's Internet cafés at Internet Café Guide ***(www.netcafeguide.com)***. New Zealand has 36 cafés listed, and if your travels bring you to Tahiti, drop into the Tiki Soft Café in Papeete ***(www.tikisoft.pf)***. Typical costs are about $10 an hour; some let you check your e-mail for free, while others charge by the minute with no minimum. Many Kinko's locations ***(www.kinkos.com)*** offer Internet connections as well as docking stations, so you can print or e-mail files from your notebook.

The Internet Café Guide also lists public-access booths located in airports, convention centers, and hotels from New York to Hawaii. ▼

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CP2-TK7-750P	**Athlon CPU 750MHz** (Socket A-Thunderbird)	$184.99
CP2-TK7-800P	**Athlon CPU 800MHz** (Socket A-Thunderbird)	$204.99
CP2-TK7-850P	**Athlon CPU 850MHz** (Socket A-Thunderbird)	$266.99
CP2-TK7-900P	**Athlon CPU 900MHz** (Socket A-Thunderbird)	$304.99
CP2-TK7-950P	**Athlon CPU 950MHz** (Socket A-Thunderbird)	$399.99
CP2-TK7-1000P	**Athlon CPU 1GHz** (Socket A-Thunderbird)	$534.99
A216-1012	**Cooling Fan for Slot A Athlon**	$7.99
A216-1022	**Cooling Dual Fan for Slot A Athlon**	$9.99
A216-1026	**Cooling Fan for Socket A Athlon**	$4.99

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CP2-CI600	**Intel Celeron 600 processor** (Socket 370)	$99.99
CP2-CI667	**Intel Celeron 667 processor** (Socket 370)	$139.99
TC1-2035	**Pentium III & Celeron Socket 370 to Slot 1 Adapter**	$8.99
Intel Pentium II & III Processors		
CP2-P2-266	**Intel Pentium II 266 processor** (Slot 1)	$49.99
CP2-P2-300	**Intel Pentium II 300 processor** (Slot 1)	$59.99
CP2-P2-350	**Intel Pentium II 350 processor** (Slot 1)	$124.99
CP2-P3-733F	**Intel Pentium III 733EB processor** (Socket 370)	$222.99
CP2-P3-800F	**Intel Pentium III 800EB processor** (Socket 370)	$284.99
CP2-P3-866F	**Intel Pentium III 866EB processor** (Socket 370)	$404.99
CP2-P3-933F	**Intel Pentium III 933EB processor** (Socket 370)	$569.99
Cyrix MII Processors		
CP2-6x300	**Cyrix MII 300 CPU** (Socket 7-PC75 Bus)	$39.99

Slot 1 & Socket 370 Motherboard Comparison

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Motherboard	Supported Bus Speed	Chipset	370 Socket/ Slot 1 Socket	Max. CPU Supported	Max. Memory	UDMA 33/66	AGP/PCI/ISA Slots	On-board LAN/Modem	On-board Audio/Video	Item #	Qty 1-2 Price
EDOM W6BXV	66/100	Apollo Pro Plus	No/Yes	600 Celeron/PII 450	768	33	1/4/3	No/ No	No/ No	MB2-W6BXV	$49.99
Diamond C400	66/100	Intel BX	No/Yes	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	D55-C400	$44.99
Soyo SY-7SSB	66/100	SiS 600	Yes/No	600 Celeron	768	33	1/3/2	No/ No	No/ No	S450-1065	$59.99
PC Chips M726LMRT	66/100	BXcel	Yes/Yes	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	1/3/1	No/Yes	Yes/No	D75-726MRT	$49.99
Pine SB1-A	66/100	SiS 5600	No/Yes	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	0/3/2	No/ No	Yes/No	P450-2000	$69.99
ECS P6BAP-A+	66/100/133	VT82C693A	Yes/No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/4/2	No/ No	Yes/ No	MB2-P6BAP	$69.99
Pine SB3-AV	66/100	SiS620	Yes/No	600 Celeron	768	66	0/3/2	No/ No	Yes/Yes	P450-1025	$79.99
Pine PM-F01A	66/100	Intel BX	Yes/No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	P450-1005	$82.99
Pine SM3-AV	66/100	SiS 620	Yes/No	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	0/3/1	No/ No	Yes/Yes	P450-1030	$84.99
ECS P6STP-FL	66/100/133	SiS 630E	Yes/No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/2/0	Opt./ Opt.	Yes/Yes	MB2-P6STPFL	$84.99
Luckytech P694A	66/100/133	Apollo Pro 133	Yes/Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/4/1	No/ No	Yes/ No	L451-1000	$86.99
Pine BA-1	66/100	Intel BX	No/Yes	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	1/4/3	No/ No	No/No	P450-3000	$89.99
FIC FA-13	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes/No	933PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/5/2	No/ No	Yes/No	L450-1060	$89.99
SoyoSY-6VBA 133	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No/Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/No	S450-1010	$92.99
Gigabyte GA-6VXE7+	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes/No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/5/2	No/ No	No/ No	L450-4021	$94.99
Soyo SY-7VBA 133	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes/No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/5/2	No/ No	Yes/ No	S450-1060	$99.99
FIC FB-11	66/100	Intel BX	Yes/No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	33	1/5/2	No/ No	No/ No	L450-1050	$101.99
FIC FA-11	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes/No	933PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/ No	Yes/No	L450-1055	$107.99
Gigabyte GA-6VX7-4X	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	YesNo	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/ No	Yes/ No	L450-4022	$109.99
Soyo SY-6VCA	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No/Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/ No	Yes/No	S450-1011	$116.99
Soyo SY-7VCA-133	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes/No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/ No	Yes/ No	S450-1050	$119.99

Socket 7 Motherboard Comparison

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Motherboard	Chipset	Supported Bus Speed	UDMA 33/66	Cache	Max. CPU Supported	Memory SIMM/DIMM	AGP/PCI/ISA Slots	On-board LAN/Modem	On-board Audio/Video	Item #	QTY 1-2 Price
Diamond C200	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	33	512KB Cache	500MHz	0/768	1/4/3	No/No	No/No	D55-C200	$49.99
Soyo 5EMA+	ETEQ 6629	66/75/83/90/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/5/2	No/No	No	S450-1035	$54.99
PC Chips M-571LMR	TX Pro II	60/66/75	33	512KB Cache	366MHz	0/512	0/3/2	Opt/Opt	Opt/Opt	MB2-571LMR	$69.99
Soyo SY-5EH/5	ETEQ 6639	66/75/83/95/100	33	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/3/3	No/No	No/No	S450-1045	$77.99
FIC VA-503+	Via MVP3	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	512/512	1/3/3	No/No	No	L450-1000	$79.99
PC Chips M-598LMR	SiS 530	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/2/1	Opt/Opt	Yes/AGP	MB2-598LMR	$82.99
PC Chips MS-599LMR	SiS 530	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/2/1	Opt/Opt	Yes/AGP	MB2-599LMR	$82.99
Gigabyte GA-5AA	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/3/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4000	$84.99
Gigabyte GA-5AX	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4010	$85.99
Soyo SY-5SSM-5	SiS530	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/4/1	No/No	Yes/AGP	S450-1040	$88.99
FIC VA7-AV	Via MVP4	66/75/83/95/100/124	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/5/2	No/No	Yes/AGP	P450-5000	$89.99

Socket A & Slot A Motherboard Comparison

Power Up! · SOYO · GIGABYTE · FIC · Lucky Tech · MSI

Motherboard	Chipset Bus Speed	Supported	Socket A / Slot A	Duron Support	Ultra ATA/66 Support	Max. CPU Supported	Max. Memory DIMM	AGP/PCI/ISA Slots	On-board LAN/Modem	On-board Audio/Video	Item #	QTY 1-2 Price
Luckytech P6K7A	Via KX-133	200	No/Yes	No	Yes	1GHz	768	1/5/1	No/No	Yes/No	L451-2000	$99.99
Gigabyte GA-7IX	AMD 751	200	No/Yes	No	Yes	900MHz	768	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4041	$99.99
Soyo SY-K7VIA	Via KX-133	200	No/Yes	No	Yes	1GHz	768	1/5/1	No/No	No/No	S450-2000	$99.99
Tyan S2380	Via KX-133	200	No/Yes	No	Yes	1GHz	768	1/6/1	No/No	No/No	MBM-S2380	$99.99
Gigabyte GA-7IXE	AMD 751	200	No/Yes	No	Yes	1GHz	768	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4040	$104.99
Microstar K7-Pro	AMD 751	200	No/Yes	No	Yes	1GHz	768	1/6/1	No/No	No/No	MB2-K7PRO	$109.99
PC Chips M-800LMR	AMD 751	200	No/Yes	No	Yes	1GHz	768	1/4/0	Yes/Opt.	Yes/No	MB2-M800LMR	$109.99
FIC AZ11	Via KT-133	200	Yes/No	Yes	Yes	1GHz	1536	1/5/0	No/No	Yes/No	L450-1040	$129.99
Gigabyte GA-7ZX	Via KT-133	200	Yes/No	Yes	Yes	1GHz	1536	1/5/0	No/No	Yes/No	MB2-7ZX	$139.99

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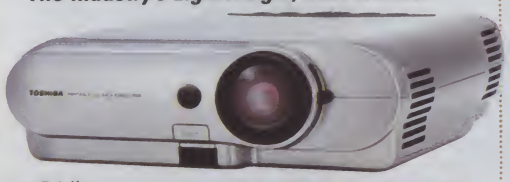

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TC1-6200	LS-120 Drive	$69.99	$67.99	$65.99
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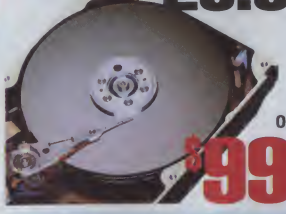

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[1]Actual speeds may vary; capable of 56Kbps but due to FCC regulations download speeds limited to 53Kbps.

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Speakers

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TC1-2010	Wireless Scrolling Mouse	$19.99	$18.99	$16.99
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TC1-1000	104 Keyboard	$9.99	$8.99	$8.49
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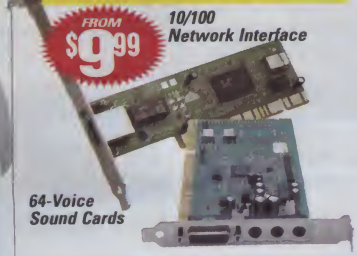

64-Voice Sound Cards

Item #	Description	1-2 Units	3-5 Units	6 units or more
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TC1-5001	ISA Sound Card	$12.99	$11.99	$9.99
TC1-5100	PCI Sound Card	$19.99	$17.99	$16.99

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TC1-7105	3D PCI 8MB Card	$36.99	$35.99	$33.99
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TC1-7202	TNT II 32MB AGP Card	$79.99	$76.99	$73.99

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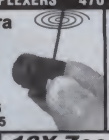

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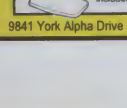

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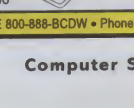

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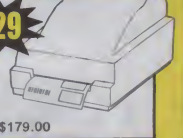

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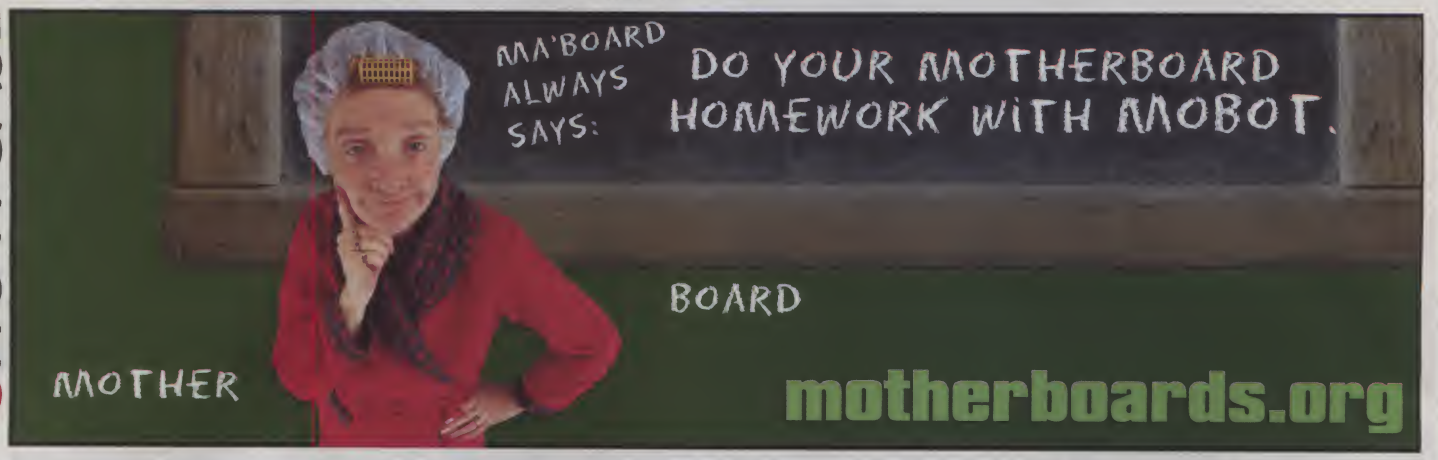

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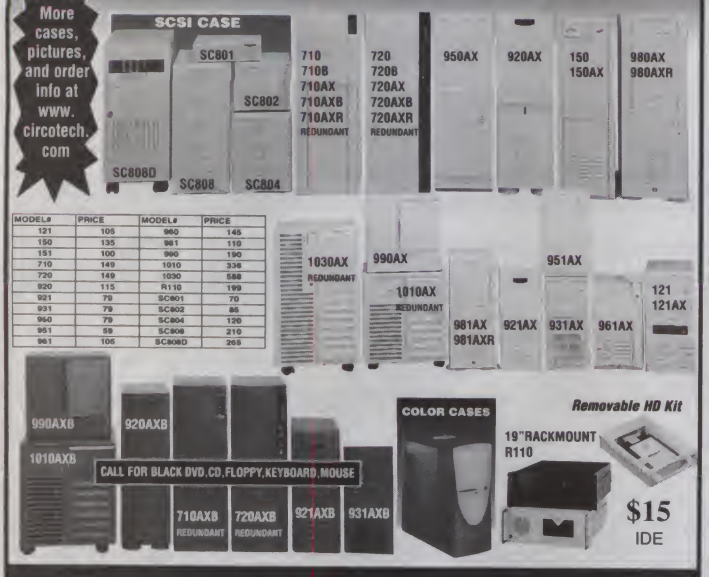

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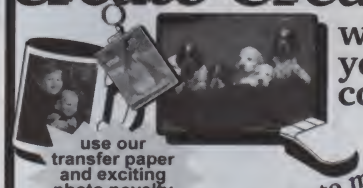

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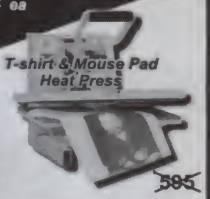

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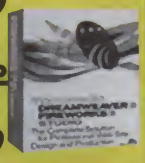

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20GB Ultra ATA66 Hard Disk Drive
250Watt ATX Med Tower Case
52X CD-ROM
56K V.90 Fax Modem with Voice
ATI Xpert 98 AGP 8MB DVD Ready Graphics
AC 97 Stereo Sound on board
Win Keyboard/ Scrolling Mouse
160W Stereo Speaker System
1.44 MB Floppy Drive
Microsoft Windows 98 2nd Edition
Free Software: Corel WordPerfect 2000 CD
Free Software: 500+ software gold pack
Preferred Tech 1-year Warranty

$695

AMD Athlon 750.....$705
AMD Athlon 800.....$745
AMD Athlon 900.....$845

ABX Upgrades

PalmTops & PDA:	
PALM IIIc 8 MB color rechargable batt.	$429
PALM VII 2 MB wireless 2 AAA battery	$439
Cameras:	
Kingston VideoCAM USB	$49
Intel® ICP3 PC Camera Pack USB	$69
Agfa ePhoto CL18 Digital Camera	$145
Kodak DC 290-3.3 M pixel 2240x1500	$645
Kodak DCS315 Color Digital Kit	$1,699
DVD CD Read/Writers:	
New! - The Worlds Fastest DVD ROM Pioneer 16x DVD ROM	$195
Sony CD-RW Read/Writer 10x4x32	$299
Sony CD-RW Read/Writer 8x4x32	$269
Panasonic CD-RW Read/Writer 8x4x32	$229
CD-RW Read/Writer 4x4x32	$185
Zip int.100 MB / 250 MB	$65 / 139
Memory	
64 MB RAM PC-100 SDRAM	$99
128 MB RAM PC-100 SDRAM	$199
256 MB RAM PC-100 SRAM	$340
Communication Device:	
PCI 10/100 Ethernet Card	$11
Monitor:	
15" Super .28 1024x768 Color	$129
17" Super .27 1280x1024 Color	$195
17" Super M Color Monitor TV Remote Tuner	$295
19" Super .26 1600x1200 Color	$299
19" ViewSonic E790 .26 SVGA Color	$405
15" Super Flat .27 Flat Sq. Color	$559
17" Super Flat .27 Flat Sq. Color	$759
Software:	
Windows 98 2nd Edition Plus	$128
MicroSoft Windows 2000 Pro	$159
MicroSoft Office 2000 Small Office	$199
Lotus Smart Suite	$49
Video Cards:	
GeForce 32MB DDR Pure 4x AGP	$299
GeForce 64MB DDR Pure 4x AGP	$449
ATI All-in-Wonder 128 16MB AGP	$215
ATI All-in-Wonder 128 16MB AGP	$285
Scanners:	
Scanmaker V6USL 36 bit 600x1200	$127**
HP Scanjet 4200CXi 36 bit 600x1200	$119**
Color Flat Bed Scanner36 Bit	$69
Notebooks:	
Toshiba Satellite 1605CD SK6-2 450MHz	$999
Toshiba Satellite 1695CDT 600MHz	$1499
Acer TravelMate 600TER P3-600MHZ	$2,075
Printers:	
HP Apollo Color 600x600 dpi	$79
Hewlett Packard DeskJet 970 CXI	$454
NEC SuperScript 870 Laser 600x600dpi	$246

**Mail In Rebate

XL Book

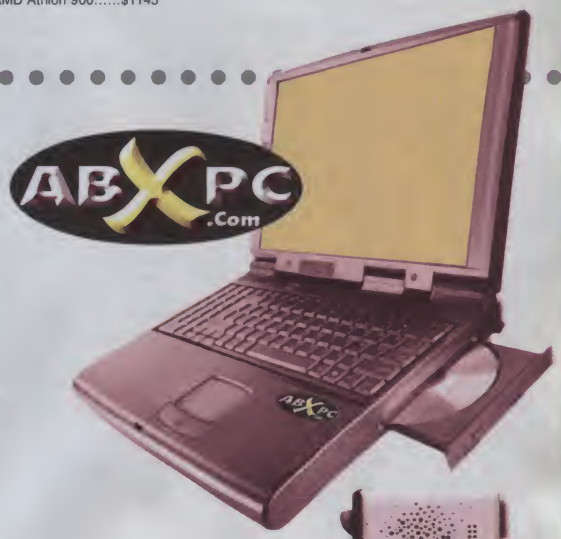
15.1" XTFT Large Color Display
Mobile Pentium III 700MHz with Intel Speed Step Technology
256 MB Fast SDRAM
30 GB Hard Disk Drive
8 MB 2x AGP Graphic Card
4X CD-RW
3D Surround Sound
56k Modem
SMART Li-ION Battery
Window 98
Lotus Smart Suite
1 yr. PreferredTech Warranty

$3,215 Free Shipping

XT Book

15.1" XTFT Large Color Display
Mobile Pentium III 650MHz with Intel Speed Step Technology
128 MB Fast SDRAM
20 GB Hard Disk Drive
8 MB 2x AGP Graphic Card
8X DVD w MPEG II
3D Surround Sound
56k Modem
SMART Li-ION Battery
Window 98
Lotus Smart Suite
1 yr. PreferredTech Warranty

$2,575 Free Shipping



XP Book

14.1" XTFT Large Color Display
Mobile Pentium III 600MHz with Intel Speed Step Technology
64 MB Fast SDRAM
12 GB Hard Disk Drive
8 MB 2x AGP Graphic Card
24X CD ROM
3D Surround Sound
56k Modem
SMART Li-ION Battery
Window 98
Lotus Smart Suite
1 yr. PreferredTech Warranty

$1,915 Free Shipping

XE Book

12.1" TFT Color Display
Intel Celeron 500MHz
64 MB Fast SDRAM
6.4 GB Hard Disk Drive
4 MB 2x AGP Graphic
24X CD ROM
3D Surround Sound
56k Modem
NiMh Battery
Window 98
Lotus Smart Suite
1 yr. PreferredTech Warranty

$1,475 Free Shipping

Intel Pentium III 800MHz $1,694

XpressPort

- Intel Celeron 600MHz (Pentium III available)
- 64 MB Fast SDRAM
- 6 GB Hard Disk Drive (upgradable to 30GB)
- 4 MB 2x AGP Graphic Card
- 24X CD ROM & FDD
- 3D Surround Sound
- Build-in Touch Pad & Speaker
- Window 98

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3rd year Warranty	$139
4th year Warranty	$159

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Quantum

18.3 GB $305 — Atlas IV
SCSI Ultra 160 — **$435 Ext.**
Int. (XC318400LW) — (XC318400LWX)

HARD DRIVE

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HARD DRIVE

Seagate

18.2GB $299 — Barracuda 18XL
Ultra 160 SCSI — **$429 Ext.**
(ST318436LW) Int. — (ST318436LWX)

TAPE BACKUP DRIVE

SONY

20-40 GB $949 — DDS-4 DAT
Ultra-2 SCSI — **$819 Int.**
Ext. (SDT11000AIX) — (SDT11000AI)

TAPE BACKUP DRIVE

HEWLETT PACKARD

10-20 GB $359
SCSI-2 TR-5 minicartridge Surestore T20i — **$419 Ext**
Int. (C4394A) — (C4394AX)

TAPE BACKUP DRIVE

Seagate

ATAPI/IDE TR4 4-8GB	(STT28000A)	Int. $185
ATAPI/IDE TR4 4-8GB	(STT28000AX)	Ext. $295
SCSI TR4 4-8GB	(STT28000N)	Int. $215
SCSI TR4 4-8GB	(STT28000NX)	Ext. $275

HARD DRIVES

Quantum (dirtcheapdrives.com/qtm)

Capacity	Cache	RPM	Part #	Price
ULTRA ATA/66 IDE				
7.5GB	512K	5400	QML07500LC	$74
10.2GB	2MB	7200	QMP10200LM	$95
15.0GB	512K	5400	QML15000LC	$85
15.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP15000LM	$99
20.0GB	512K	5400	QML20000LC	$94
20.5GB	2MB	7200	QMP20500LM	$127
30.0GB	512K	5400	QML30000LC	$124
30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000LM	$167
SCA & SCA ULTRA 160 Single Connector Attachment				
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100SCA	$186
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200SCA	$335
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400SCA	$305
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400SCA	$517
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400SCA	$611
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700SCA	$896
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400SCA	$1654
ULTRA 160 SCSI (160 MB/sec)				
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100LW	$186
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200LW	$335
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400LW	$305
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400LW	$517
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400LW	$611
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700LW	$896
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400LW	$1654

IBM (dirtcheapdrives.com/ibm)

ULTRA ATA-100 IDE				
20.5GB	512K	5400	07N3924	$97
20.5GB	2MB	7200	07N3928	$146
30.7GB	2MB	7200	07N3929	$163
46.1GB	2MB	7200	07N3931	$233
61.4GB	2MB	7200	07N3933	$435
76.8GB	2MB	7200	07N3935	$555
ULTRA 160 SCSI (160MB/sec)				
9.1GB	4MB	7200	07N3120	$225
9.1GB	4MB	10,000	07N3220	$241
18.2GB	4MB	7200	07N3110	$331
18.3GB	4MB	10,000	07N3210	$372
36.4GB	4MB	7200	07N3100	$568
36.9GB	4MB	10,000	07N3200	$599

We value our customers.

HARD DRIVES

Seagate (dirtcheapdrives.com/sea)

ULTRA ATA/66 IDE				
10.2GB	512k	5400	ST310212A	$75
10.2GB	2MB	7200	ST310210A	$95
15.3GB	512k	5400	ST315323A	$86
15.3GB	2MB	7200	ST315320A	$99
20.4GB	512k	5400	ST320423A	$97
20.4GB	2MB	7200	ST320420A	$128
30.6GB	2MB	7200	ST330630A	$167
ULTRA SCSI				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39216N	$214
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318416N	$299
ULTRA Wide SCSI				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39216W	$214
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318416W	$299
Ultra 160 SCSI (up to 160MB/sec)				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LW	$213
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LWV	$229
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LW	$247
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LW	$378
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LW	$299
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LWV	$319
18.4GB	4MB	**15,000**	ST318451LW	$513
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LW	$611
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LWV	$635
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LW	$1115
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LWV	**$1139**
SCA & SCA 160 (Single Connector Attachment)				
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LC	$213
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LCV	$229
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LC	$247
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LC	$378
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LC	$299
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LCV	$319
18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LC	$513
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LC	$611
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LCV	$635
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LC	$1115
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LCV	$1139
FC-AL Fibre Channel 160 (Arbitrated Loop)				
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204FC	$247
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404FC	$378
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704FC	$611
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404FC	$1115

Keep your hard drive running cool and extend the life of your drive. Twin cooling fans are controlled by heat sensitive circuitry. (VHDFAN) **$25**

HARD DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL (dirtcheapdrives.com/wd)

ULTRA ATA-66 IDE				
10.2GB	512k	5400	WDAC102AA	$77
10.2GB	2MB	7200	WDAC102BA	$98
15.3GB	512k	5400	WDAC153AA	$83
15.3GB	2MB	7200	WDAC153BA	$110
20.5GB	512k	5400	WDAC205AA	$104
20.5GB	2MB	7200	WDAC205BA	$130
30.0GB	512k	5400	WDAC307AA	$131
45.0GB	2MB	5400	WDAC450AA	$182

Maxtor (dirtcheapdrives.com/max)

ULTRA ATA-100 IDE				
15.3GB	512K	5400	M31536H2	$80
20.0GB	2MB	7200	M52049H4	$120
20.4GB	512K	5400	M32049H3	$97
30.0GB	2MB	7200	M53073H6	$159
30.7GB	512K	5400	M33073H4	$117
40.0GB	2MB	7200	M54098H8	$209
61.4GB	2MB	5400	M96147H8	$253
81.9GB	2MB	5400	M98196H8	$315

FUJITSU (dirtcheapdrives.com/fuj)

ULTRA ATA-100 IDE				
15.3GB	512K	5400	M31536U2	$80
20.0GB	2MB	7200	M52049U4	$120
20.4GB	512K	5400	M32049U3	$97
30.0GB	2MB	7200	M53073U6	$159
30.7GB	512K	5400	M33073U4	$117
40.0GB	2MB	7200	M54098U8	$209
61.4GB	2MB	5400	M96147U8	$253
81.9GB	2MB	5400	M98196H8	$315

SONY *AIT Tape Drive*

25-50GB	AIT Internal	(SDX-300CI)	**$1569**
25-50GB	AIT External	(SDX-S300C)	**$1969**
50-100GB	AIT-2 Internal	(SDX-500CI)	**$2959**
50-100GB	AIT-2 External	(SDX-S500C)	**$3295**

AIT Media

35GB (SDX135C)	1-4 **$85**	5-9 **$83**	10-49 **$81**	50+ **$79**
50GB (SDX250C)	1-4 **$110**	5-9 **$106**	10-49 **$102**	50+ **$98**

Last year you voted for us as the Best Place to Buy Storage & Computer Accessories in the 1999 Shopper's Choice Awards. Help us place first again this year by casting your vote. Look in this month's August issue for details on voting & how to win cash & prizes!

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DRIVES

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Readers Computer Shopper Select Shoppers' Choice 1999

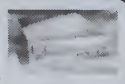
DVD RAM DRIVE

CREATIVE

1x16x2 $265 Complete *SCSI* Kit
Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, CD-R & CD-RW disks.
Stores up to 5.2GB on a single disk. (CLDVDRAM)

DVD RAM DRIVE

TOSHIBA



1x16x2 $395 Bare *SCSI-2* Drive
Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, DVD Video, Video CD, CD-ROM, CD Audio, CD-R & CD-RW disks. 2MB buffer
Stores up to 5.2GB on a single disk. (SDW1111)

NOTEBOOK C[illegible]RS

IBM *Laptop Computer*

6GB $2395
64MB, DVD-Rom
500MHz Processor
(F1667WT)

Large selections on our website under the "Computers/Notebooks" listing.

CD-RW DRIVE

YAMAHA

8x8x24 $219
SCSI-2
Int. (YCRW8824S)

$269 Ext.
(YCRW8824SX)

2GB JAZ DRIVE

iomega

2GB Jaz Drive $339
Ultra-2 SCSI
(JAZ2X) External Drive

2GB disks
$85 each
(JAZC2GIGPC)

HOT TAPE DRIVES

STORE UP TO 30GB COMPRESSED DATA
Tape drives include awesome backup software plus "drag & drop" software. An excellent value.

15-30GB internal IDE w/software (OS30IDE)	$269
15-30GB internal SCSI w/software (OS30SCSI)	$449
25-50GB internal SCSI w/software (OS50SCSI)	$545
25-50GB internal SCSI LVD w/software (OS50LVDI)	$565
Tapes for above 15-30 (ADR30) / 25-50 (ADR50)	$35/$45

TAPE BACKUP

Seagate

Minicartridge
• Includes 1 FREE tape, cable, manual, Win/NTWS backup software

ATAPI (IDE)	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000A)	**$185**	**$295**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20gig (STT220000A)	**$249**	**$359**	**$40**(TR5)
SCSI	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000N)	**$215**	**$275**	**$25**(TR4)
SCSI RCVT Includes NT & Netware server software only. Features hardware data compression.			
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000NC)	**$359**	**$419**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20gig (STT220000N)	**$465**	**$525**	**$40**(TR5)

HEWLETT® PACKARD

Minicartridge
Includes 1 FREE tape, manual, , DOS/Win backup software

SCSI	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR5 10-20gig (C4394A)	**$359**	**$419**	**$40**(TR5)

Exabyte

7-14Gig	8mm,120MB/min, ELIANT820	$1169 $10 (DAT160M8MM)
20-40Gig	8mm,360MB/min, EXB8900	$1879 $69 (AME170)
140-280Gig	8mm, 180MB/min, EZ17SWK	$4499 $10 (DAT160M8MM)

HEWLETT® PACKARD

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with HP DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2, 60MB/min, C1599AI	$495 $10 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C1554AI	$689 $20 (DAT125M)
72-144Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C5648A	$1599 $20 (DAT125M)

Seagate

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Seagate DAT!

2-4Gig	DAT-DC,66MB/min,STD24000N	$413 $6 (DAT90M)
4Gig	Mini, 30MB/min,STT28000N	$215 $25 (TRA)
4-8Gig	Mini, 60MB/min,STT28000NC	$359 $25 (TR4)
4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STD28000N	$509 $10 (DAT120M)
10-20Gig	Mini, 100MB/min,STT2200BARE	$275 $40 (TR5)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 132MB/min, STD224000N	$679 $10 (DAT120M)
35-70Gig	AIT,360MB/min, STA2701W	$1765 $105 (STAE70)
48-96Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STL496000N	$1599 $10 (DAT125M)

We have a variety of power backup solutions. Our customer service reps are glad to assist you. Call or visit our website under the "Power Backups" listing.

TAPE BACKUP

SONY

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Sony DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 90MB/min, SDT7000AI	$419 $10 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 144MB/min, SDT9000AI	$649 $20 (DAT125M)
20-40Gig	DDS-4 DAT, 288MB/min, SDT11000AI	$819 $33 (DAT150M)
160-320Gig	DDS-4 DATloader, 840MB/min, TSL-S11000	$2695 $33 (DAT150M)

Quantum

Get a DLT4 tape for only $65 when purchased with drive.

20-40Gig	DLT,180MB/min, DLT4000	$1285 $65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT4000X	$1385 $65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT4000QX	$1529 $65 (DLT4)
40-80Gig	DLT, 600MB/min,DLT8000	$3739 $65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT8000X	$3839 $65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT8000QX	**$3919** $65 (DLT4)

DLT MEDIA SALE	**1-4**	**5-9**	**10-49**	**50+**
DLTIII 10-20GB (DLT3)	$34	$33	$32	$31
DLTIII XT 15-30GB (DLT3XT)	$37	$36	$35	$34
DLTIV 20-40GB (DLT4)	$73	$70	$67	$65
DLT Cleaning tape (DLTCLEAN)	$39	$37	$35	$33

LAPTOP DRIVES

These drives offer cost effective solutions for upgrading your existing laptop. We now also carry a large variety of top name brand listings on new complete notebooks and accessories. Call our customer service reps today or visit our website under the "Computers/Notebooks" listing for our latest deals on new notebook computers.

TOSHIBA Hard Drives

Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK6015MAP	$123
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1016GAP	$165
12.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1214GAP	$168
18.1GB	12.5mm	4200	MK1814GAV	$259
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK2016MAP	$295
IBM Hard Drives				
5.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4391	$119
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4390	$192
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4388	$332
30.0GB	12.5mm	4200	07N4392	$459
HITACHI Hard Drives				
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23AA60	$126
12.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23AA12	$164
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA20	$269

Ask about our Laptop accessories.

BACKUP SOFTWARE

Seagate (formerly Veritas) (formerly Seagate) Backup Exec

Windows 95 & 98 (SBEWDWD)	$65
Windows NT workstation (SBENTWD)	$69
Windows single server (SBENTSE)	$419
Windows NT multi server (SBENTME)	$859
Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	$429
Netware single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	$409
Netware multi server (SBENWME)	$829

NovaStor
NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2. Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801) $49

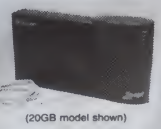
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000Server (29801)	$115
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000 Workstation (29821)	$55
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	$295
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	$395
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	$639
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE (79310)	$295
Single Server for NetWare 25 User (79320)	$315
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User (79330)	$395
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User (79340)	$555
Unlimited for NetWare 1000 User (79350)	$649

We now carry a large variety of software including: gaming software, multimedia software, business software & more! Call.

MicroSolutions

Microsolutions offers a complete line of plug and play external drives. These drives easily interface with your computer's parallel printer port. They also have a pass through connector so you can use your printer at the same time.

32X CD-ROM	#BACKPAC32X	$145
32X CD-ROM w/sound	#BACKPAC32XS	$177
8GB Hard Drive	#BACKPACK8G	$242
4x4x20 CD Rewritable	#BACKPAC4X20	$241



(20GB model shown)

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30.6GB	ST330630A	$167

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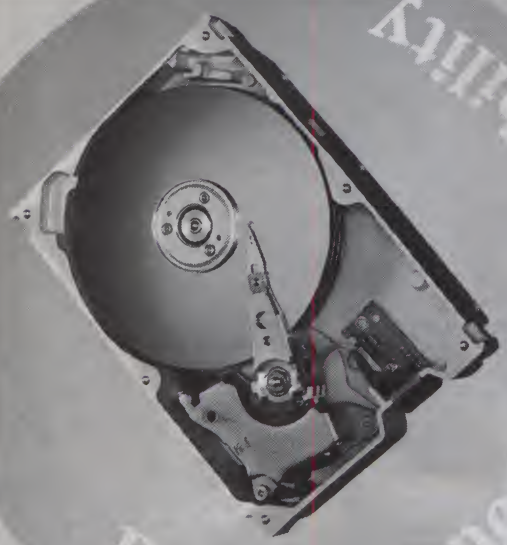

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20GB	QML20000LC	$94
30GB	QML30000LC	$124

7200rpm/2MB Fireball Plus KX, Ultra ATA

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ORB USB (ORBUSB)	$189
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ORB USB

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Maxoptix 5.2 Media 1-4/5-9/10+ (MAX5.2)	$83/$80/$77

SONY 5.2GB

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Int. (SMOF551) /Ext. our case (SMOF551X)	$1399/$1459
Sony 5.2 Media 1-4/5-9/10+ (SMAX5.2)	$83/$80/$77

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230MB	TJ230	3.5", 512K	$14	$10	$8
230MB	TJ230MAC	Mac formatted	$14	$10	$8
640MB	TJ640	3.5", 2048K	$21	$17	$15
650MB	TJ650	5.25", 1024K	$25	$23	$21
1.2Gig	TJ1.2	5.25", 512K	$25	$23	$21
1.3Gig	TJ1.3	5.25", 1024K	$26	$24	$22
2.6 Gig	TJ2.6	5.25", 1024K	$33	$29	$27
5.2Gig	TJ5.2	5.25", 2048K	$70	$68	$64

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External SCSI (JAZ2X)	$339
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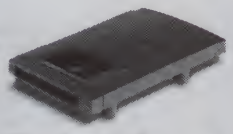
2GB Disks (JAZC2GIGPC) Qty 2-4/5-9/10+	$85/$80/$77
JAZ ACCESSORIES	
ISA Controller (JAZJETISA)/PCI Controller (JAZJETPCI)	$79/$89
PCMCIA Type II Adapter (JAZPCMCIA)	$105
Parallel Adapter Jaz Traveller (JAZPARALLEL)	$39



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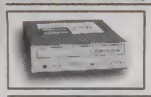
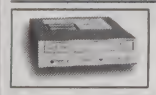


8x4x32 IDE — PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW8432R) $225
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

8x4X32 IDE — Acer
Int. (CRW8432A) $175
8MB buffer
With software, & 1 RW disk



8x4X32 IDE — CREATIVE
Int. (SBCDRW8432) $169
2MB buffer
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

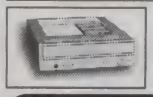
8x8x24 IDE — YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8824E) $169
Bare drive

10x4x32 IDE — SONY
Int. (CRX145E) $229
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

10x4x32 IDE — HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4492A) $229
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

12x10x32 IDE — PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW121032R) $275
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

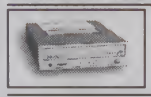
12x8x32 IDE — HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4502A) $269
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



12x10x32 IDE — RICOH
Int. (MP7120A) $269
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

SCSI CDRW DRIVE

Packet write and tray load



8x4x32 SCSI — HEWLETT PACKARD
Int. (C4457A) $269
Ext. (C4457AX) $329

8x8x24 SCSI — YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8824S) $219
Ext. (YCRW8824SX) $269

10x4x32 SCSI — SONY
Int. (CRX145S) $299
Ext. (CRX145SX) $359

12x4x32 SCSI — CenDyne
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Ext. (CD1CD00028X) $369

12x4x32 SCSI — PLEXTOR
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Ext. (PXW12432BX) $359

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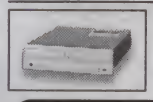

8x24 SCSI — TEAC
Int. (CDR8X24TK) $255
Ext. (CDR8X24TKX) $345
Includes Software & 1 disk

CD DRIVE CONTROLLERS

Add A Controller — If Needed

For a complete listing of controllers including RAID, See Page 8

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A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)	$49
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI adapter	$65
T1460D2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI	$115
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI	$165
A2940UKIT	PCI 32 bit Ultra SCSI controller	$225
TEKRAM		
DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	$23
DC395U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	$44
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	$69
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	$115
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	$139
DC390U3W	1 Ultra 160 Channel & 1 Ultra Wide channel kit	$195
PROMISE		
ULTRA66	PCI, Supports Ultra-66 IDE drives	$29
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	$89
ULTRA100	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-100 drives	$49
FASTTRAK100	PCI, SUPPORTS ULTRA ATA-100 RAID 0+1	$115

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HYCD Publisher for PC (Windows 3.1, 95, NT) (CDRHYWIN)
- Creates hybrid CDs for PC/Mac/Unix, bootable CDs.
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Creative Digital Research CDR HYCD Publisher for Unix workstations
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12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74B-20)	$18
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74B-50)	$42
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74B-100)	$78
12x	5 pack (CDR74-5)	$6
12x	20 pack (CDR74-20)	$24
12x	50 pack (CDR74-50)	$56
12x	100 pack (CDR74-100)	$105
12x	Platinum 5 pack (CDR74PA-5)	$6
12x	Platinum 20 pack (CDR74PA-20)	$24
12x	Platinum 50 pack (CDR74PA-50)	$57
12x	Platinum 100 pack (CDR74PA-100)	$106

Printable CDR-74 in jewel case

12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74PB-5)	$4
12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74PB-20)	$15
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74PB-50)	$35
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74PB-100)	$66
12x	5 pack (CDR74P-5)	$7
12x	20 pack (CDR74P-20)	$26
12x	50 pack (CDR74P-50)	$62
12x	100 pack (CDR74P-100)	$115

CDR-80 80 minute media in jewel case

12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR80-5)	$4
12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR80-20)	$13
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR80-50)	$32
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR80-100)	$59
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Bulk!	Spindle 74 minute media. Includes 100 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR74S8-100)	$79
Bulk!	Spindle 80 minute media. Includes 100 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR80S8-100)	$43
Bulk!	Spindle 80 minute media. Includes 500 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR80S8-500)	$199

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4x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74WB-20)	$24
4x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74WB-50)	$56
4x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74WB-100)	$104
4x	5 pack (CDR74W-5)	$12
4x	20 pack (CDR74W-20)	$45
4x	50 pack (CDR74W-50)	$107
4x	100 pack (CDR74W-100)	WOW !!! $199

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LT820 **$13**

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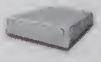

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  Bare IDE Drive (SDM1402) $115
- 10X DVD reader, 105ms • 40X CD ROM, 85ms
  Bare SCSI Drive (SDM1401) $149

ACER

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IDE CDR & DVD-ROM in ONE!

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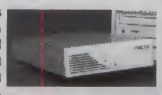
  Complete Drive Kit (MP9060A) **$229**

FISC-CD (Ethernet IDE CD Controller)



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DVD-RAM Drives Stores 5.2GB!

Creative DVD RAM Kit (CLDVDRAM) **only $265**
Toshiba *DVD utility software PC or Mac only $59*

- DVD-RAM 1X, 120ms • DVD-ROM 2x, 210 ms
- CD-ROM 16x, 140ms • 2MB buffer
- Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, DVD Video, Video CD, CD-ROM, CED Audio, CD-R and CD-RW disks.

Bare SCSI drive (SDW1111) $395

Hitachi

- DVD-RAM 1x, 210ms • DVD-ROM 2x, 165ms
- CD-ROM 24x, 140ms • 2MB buffer
- Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, CD-RW, and PD disks.

SCSI bare drive (GF-2050) $539
IDE bare drive (GF2000) $489

DVD RAM MEDIA

5.2 media (DVDRAMDISK) 1-4/5-9/10+ $33/$31/$29
DVD utility software for PC (DVDSFTPC-NT) for Mac (DVDSFTMAC) $59

We really appreciate your business!

DVD Accessories

SIGMA DESIGNS HOLLYWOOD

•Best Selling PCI Based MPEG-2 decoder board (HOLLYWOOD) $55

WAVELINK PC TO TV TRANSMITTER

•View DVD movie titles on TV without the use of wires. 2.4GHz signal penetrates walls, floors, and ceilings. Operates up to 300 feet away. Sends and receives crisp color and stereo audio. Also works with many other video/audio sources.
(PCTOTV) $99 or $95 with any DVD drive purchase.

We always have the latest DVD drives at Dirt Cheap Drives. Check us out on the web at ***dirtcheapdrives.com*** for the best deals in the industry.

TOWERS & NETWORK

Ethernet CD ROM Towers - Can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, OS/2, & UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks & NFS

	7 Drive 10baseT	*7 Drive* 10/100	*13 Drive* 10baseT	*13 Drive* 10/100
Toshiba 40X	$1195 #TOS6401X7N	$1329 #TOS6401X7NT	$1769 #TOS6401X13T	$1999 #TOS6401X13E
Plextor 40X	$1259 #PLEX40X7N	$1495 #PLEX40X7NT	$2069 #PLEX40X13T	$2379 #PLEX40X13E
NEC 40X	$1109 #NEC3010X7N	$1349 #NEC3010X7NT	$1799 NEC3010X13T	$2119 #NEC3010X13E
Kenwood 52X	$1599 #KEN415X7N	$1849 #KEN415X7NT	$2739 #KEN415X13T	$2999 #KEN415X13E

Axis StorePoint CD *Ethernet SCSI CD Controller*

Connect your SCSI CD ROM drives directly to your Ethernet or Token Ring network without a computer. Stand alone has its own external enclosure. Tower module mounts in a tower case & occupies 1 5.25" HH drive bay.

Enclosure	Network	Max # Drives	Item #	Price
Stand-alone	Ethernet	7	AXISCD-E	$539
Stand-alone	TokenRing	7	AXISCD-TR	$729
Tower Module	Token Ring	7	AXISCD/T-TR	$639
Tower Module	Ethernet	7	AXISCDE100	$519
Tower Module	Ethernet	14	AXISCDE100D	$649
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	7	AXISCD/DVD	$769
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	14	AXISCD/DVDD	$949

SCSI CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Int	Ext
32X	TEAC	CD532S	85	128K	$72	$132
32X	PLEXTOR	PX32CS (CADDY)	85	512K	$130	$190
40X	NEC	CDR3010	85	256K	$69	$129
40X	TOSHIBA	XM6401B	85	256K	$64	$122
40X	PLEXTOR	PX40TS (TRAY)	85	512K	$89	**$149**
52X	KENWOOD	UCR415	90	2MB	***$143***	***$203***
WIDE SCSI CD ROM						
40X	Plextor	PX40TSUW	85	512K	$99	$189

Pioneer 24x 6 Disk external CD changer (DRM6324X) $395

IDE CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Drive
40X	Teac	CD540E	85	128K	$43
40X	NEC	CDR3000	75	128K	$43
48X	Toshiba	XM6702B	85	256K	$45
48X	Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	65	256K	$41
50X	Acer	CD650P	85	128k	$41
52X	Creative	SBCD52	100	256k	$40
52X	Kenwood	UCR412	90	2MB	$79
72X	Kenwood	UCR421	100	2MB	$110

Call for IDE CD ROM towers - up to 8 CD ROMs in one tower! Also available in rack mount - perfect for libraries.

CD ROM Accessories

Buy a CD drive & sound card & get a FREE audio cable.

Sound Blaster Live MP3+ (SBLIVEMP3+)	$95
Sound Blaster Live X-Gamer (SBX-GAMER)	$89
Sound Blaster 512 (SBPCI512)	$65
Platinum (SBPLATINUM)	$179
IDE CD ROM case with card and cable (HOTPORT)	$129
IDE CD ROM case for parallel printer port (PPCASECD)	$59
IDE CD ROM case for PCMCIA port (PCMCIACD)	$115
Universal sound cable (AUDIOMIX)	$5
CD Driver software for Mac (RAPIDPD)	$8
CD Caddies (CDCADDY) *5-19/20+*	$5/$4

GRAPHICS CARDS

Diamond Viper II AGP w/S3 Savage2000	90230302	$95
ATI All-In-Wonder 128 PCI w/32MB SDRAM	100-708036	$195
3dfx Voodoo5 5500 AGP w/64MB SDRAM	V555464	$295
3dfx Voodoo3 3500 TV AGP	V3T416	$179
3dfx Voodoo3 3000 AGP w/16MB SDRAM	V33416	$125
ATI RAGE FURY 128 AGP w/32MB SDRAM	100-416045	$115
3dfx Voodoo3 3000 PCI w/16MB SDRAM	V33316	$125

Our website features extensive listings on multimedia: projectors, video capture & editing cards to name a few.

SCSI Towers

			4 Drives	*7 Drives*
Toshiba	40X	79ms	$329 #TOS6401X4B	$595 #TOS6401X7B
Plextor	40X	85ms	$429 #PLEX40X4B	$759 #PLEX40X7B
Plextor	40X	85ms	$509 #PLEX40WX4B	$869 #PLEX40WX7B
Plextor 40X Now available in Ultra Wide SCSI!				
NEC	40X	85ms	$359 #NEC3010X4B	$619 #NEC3010X7B
Kenwood	52X	85ms	$649 #KEN415X4B	$1129 #KEN415X7B

VISA MasterCard

1-800-475-7476

Sales lines open Mon - Fri 8-8, Sat 9-3 CST

DRIVES

Voted by Computer Shopper Readers as the "Best Place to Buy Storage" AND the "Best Place to Buy Upgrade Components/Accessories"

Readers Computer Shopper Select Shoppers' Choice 1999

USB DRIVES & USB STUFF

SONY SONY SONY

4x4x6 CD Rewritable for PC or Mac

Master CD with this complete kit. Includes mastering software and drive in high quality external USB case.

#CRX100E/X2 $309

100MB Zip Drive

Iomega USB 100MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

#ZIP100USB $99

250MB Zip

Iomega USB 250MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

#ZIP250USB $169

2.2GB Orb

Revolutionary removable media storage by Castlewood Systems holds 2.2GB of uncompressed storage capacity. Includes a 2.2GB cartridge.

#ORBUSB $189

USB to SCSI Adapter

USB to SCSI adapter by Adaptec. Allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port. Also available in SCSI-2.

#USBSCSI $69 #USBSCSI2 $69

SuperDisk Drive 120MB & Floppy

Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks.

#USBLS120 $139

1394 USB/PCI Board

2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals.

#70HTL00060 $139

Floppy Drive

Teac USB floppy for iMac. Reads & writes Mac and PC formats. Features iMac blue case.

#USBFLOPPY $85

10GB, 15GB, 20GB, 30GB Hard Drive

10GB USB external hard drive with built-in fan and USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

#USB10GB $165
#USB15GB $179
#USB20GB $205
#USB30GB $229

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- ***High Tech Telephony Products***
- ***Software - ALL the hottest sellers!***
- ***3Com Networking Devices***
- ***Digital Cameras - Both Video and Still***
- ***Industrial Enclosures***
- ***Memory, Motherboards and Processors***
- ***Video Equipment and more!***

At Dirt Cheap Drives, we're not just drives anymore!

BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE AND CALL US OFTEN

1394/FIREWIRE

Hot 1394 products by Orange Micro Inc.

The new 1394 interface is a high performance technology that can support up to 63 devices with current data transfer speeds up to 400Mbits per second. This hot new technology is also known as Firewire and i.Link.

1394 PCMCIA CardBus

Hot plug connect multimedia peripherals to your computer without restarting. Dual connectors support 1394 peripherals such as disk drives, scanners, printers and digital cameras.

1394 CardBus PC Card (70HTL00040) $105

1394 USB/PCI Board

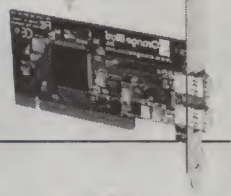
2 1394 & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals.

USB/PCI Board (70HTL00060) $139

1394 PCI Board Kit

Edit video from your Mac or PC!

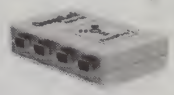
Mac/PC PCI Board Kit: (70HTL13941) $89



1394 Hub

Disconnect 1394 peripherals without disturbing other peripherals in a traditional daisy chain. Provides 5 additional 1394 ports from a single power supply.

1394 Hub (70HTL00030) $85



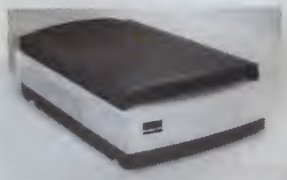
1394 Repeater and Cables

Connect one repeater to another using 15 foot cables. Reach up to 236 feet total length from the original 1394 host system.

1394 Repeater (70HTL00020) $45
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin (70CAB13943) $28
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 6pin (70CAB13942) $30

CALL TODAY **for current pricing & information or visit our secure website 24 hours a day at: www.dirtcheapdrives.com/1394**

1394 UMAX PowerLook 1100 Scanner with DuoDesign Software Bundle



(SPKG14006) **$959**

Designed for use on Macintosh or Windows PC systems equipped with a FireWire/IEEE-1394 port. The PowerLook 1100 features a high 3.4Dmax for fine details, 4MB I/O buffer, 1200 x 2400 dpi with a 10,600 element tri-linear CCD, and an effective 42-bit output.

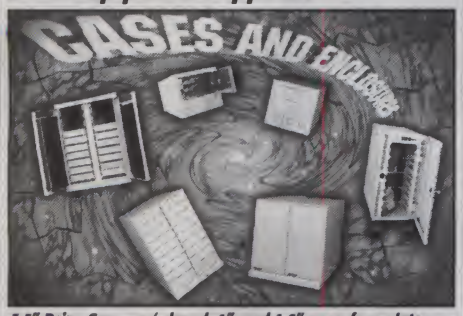
DIRT CHEAP DRIVES

www.dirtcheapdrives.com

DIRT CHEAP

DRIVE CASES

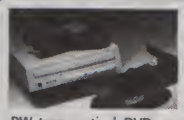
Models available with redundant hot swap power supplies.



3.5" Drive Case - w/ closed, 1", and 1.6" open face plates.

Ultra (3.5CASEC)	$49
Ultra Wide SCSI (3.5CASECW)	$59
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (3.5CASE160)	$69
Parallel/IDE closed & 1" open face (PPCASEHD)	$75
PCMCIA/IDE closed & 1" open face (PCMCIA3.5)	$119
5.25" Drive Case with closed, 1", 1.6", and CD face plates.	
Ultra (HHCASET)	$49
Ultra Wide SCSI (HHCASETW)	$59
Ultra 160 SCSI (comp w/ U-2) (HHCASET160)	$75
Parallel/IDE closed & open face (PPCASECD)	$69
PCMCIA/IDE open&closed face (PCMCIACD)	$119
Two Drive Case – Holds 2 half height or 1 full height drive.	
Ultra (FHCASE)	$69
Ultra Wide SCSI (FHCASEW)	$95
Ultra 160 SCSI, comp w/ U-2 (FHCASE160)	$109
Dual 3.5" drive model	
Ultra (DUAL3.5CASE)	$69
Ultra Wide SCSI (DUAL3.5CW)	$89
Ultra 160 SCSI, comp w/ U-2 (DUAL3.5C160)	$99
Four Drive Case – Holds 4 half height or 2 full height drives.	
Ultra (DUALCASET)	$99
Ultra Wide SCSI (DUALCASETW)	$129
Ultra 160 SCSI, comp w/ U-2 (DUALCASE160)	$139
Eight Drive Case – Holds 8 half height or 4 full height drives.	
Ultra (TOWERCASET)	$175
Ultra Wide SCSI (TOWERCASETW)	$219
Ultra 160 SCSI, comp w/ U-2 (TOWERCSE160)	$239
Fourteen Drive Case – Holds 14 half height or 6 full height drives.	
Ultra (14BAYCASE)	$385
Ultra Wide SCSI (14BAYCASEFW)	$479
Ultra 160 SCSI, comp w/ U-2 (14BAYCSE160)	$495
Eighteen Drive Case – Holds 18 half height or 8 full height drives.	
Ultra (18BAYCASE)	$585
Ultra Wide SCSI (18BAYCASEFW)	$689
Ultra 160 SCSI, comp w/ U-2 (18BAYCSE160)	$699
Twenty Drive Case – Holds 20 half height or 10 full height drives.	
Ultra (20BAYCASE)	$619
Ultra Wide SCSI (20BAYCASEFW)	$739
Ultra 160 SCSI, comp w/ U-2 (20BAYCSE160)	$755

For complete listing of our current cases and enclosures, visit:
www.dirtcheapdrives.com/cases



Hot Port External IDE Case

The perfect way to turn any IDE drive into an external. Great for Hard drives, CD ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, tape, optical, DVD, or any other IDE drive. Includes IDE controller card, cable, and case. Power goes through the data cable so no awkward power cables. Perfect for sharing drives among multiple computers. TWICE as fast. as an external parallel port case and cheaper than SCSI. (HOTPORT) $129
Extra HotPort controller (HOTCT) $59

MAKE YOUR DRIVE REMOVEABLE & SECURE

With DataPort™, You *CAN* Take It With You!

Have you been wondering if your data is secure while you're away from your desk? The solution is simple. Take your hard drive with you when you go. No more security worries. No more files left behind. Just put your drive in a padded carrying case whenever you're away from your PC. Great for security, transportability, data interchange, RAID configurations, etc. With DataPort™, you *can* take it with you when you go.

Keep your data secure by turning any 3½" drive into a removable. DataPort™ System includes:

1. **Frame** – Installs into your 3½" drive bay ***AND***
2. **Cartridge** – Holds your internal drive allowing it to slip in and out of the bay on the installed frame.

Note: *Each family of modules are not compatible with other families.*

DATAPORT IV

SCSI ID switch, and gold plated connectors. Plastic construction with metal top and bottom covers on cartridge.

IDE SYSTEM – 1 frame, and 1 cartridge(TRANSIDE)	$45
Extra IDE Frame (TRANSIDEFR)	$27
Extra IDE Cartridge (TRANSIDECA)	$21
SCSI SYSTEM – 1 frame, and 1 cartridge(TRANSSCSI)	$51
Extra SCSI Frame (TRANSSCSIFR)	$29
Extra SCSI Cartridge (TRANSSCSICA)	$26

DATAPORT V

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 w/plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	$79	N/A
IDE 66 w/ metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	$87	$196
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UW)	$105	$114
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	$42	N/A
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	$50	$60
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCART)	$61	$71
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$44	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	$51	

DATAPORT VI

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm, SCSI ID switch. 7 segment ID display on front. Metal frame and metal cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	$108	$117
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UWM)	$128	$137
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	$139	$149
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	$61	$71
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	$75	$85
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART)	$88	$98
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAMEL)	$54	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$61	
SCA (DPSCAFRAME)	$63	
ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI		
Cover plate to cover opening whencartridge is removed (DPFPLATE)	$8	$10

DATAPORT VII

High quality DataPort series made for 10,000rpm drives with dual cooling fans.

COMPLETE KIT	
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge	
IDE (metal cartridge) (DP2200A7)	$120
Ultra SCSI (DP2200S7)	$122
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200W7)	$149
EXTRA FRAME	
IDE/Ultra SCSI/Ultra Wide SCSI	$69/$74/$88
EXTRA CARTRIDGE	
IDE/Ultra SCSI/Ultra Wide SCSI	$59/$62/$71

DATAPORT VIII

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features 2 built in cooling fans (one front, one rear), SCSI ID switch. Metal frame and metal cartridge construction. LCD display shows time, drive temperature, SCSI ID, and voltage.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200W8)	$135	$144
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP8CART)	$83	$93
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP8FRAME)	$61	

DATAPORT™ PADDED CARRYING CASE

Fits all removable cartridges. Great for safe transportation and storage once the cartridge is removed. Soft internal padding for shock protection.
Professional Aluminum Carrying Case (DPCASEM) **Just $49**

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Readers Computer Shopper Select Shoppers' Choice 1999

CONTROLLERS

adaptec

		BARE	/KIT
A1505KIT	ISA 16 Bit SCSI (no hard drive support)		$49
A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)		$55
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI adapter		$75
T1460D2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI		$125
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI		$165
AAA131U2	PCI RAID controller for Ultra-2		$429
AAA133U2	PCI Ultra-2 RAID 3 channel		$689
ARO1130U2	RAIDPORT II Ultra-2 RAID		$269
A19160	Ultra 160 SCSI	$155	$225
A29160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit	$199	$295
A39160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit PCI, 2 channel		$339
A29160N	Ultra 160 SCSI 32 bit PCI		$279
A29160LP	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit MD2 low profile	$219	$295
APD29160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh		$279
APD39160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh	FAST!	$395
AAAUDMAKIT	PCI 4 channel UDMA/66 RAID		$379
The Adaptec RAID Lineup			
RAID2100S	Ultra 160 SCSI RAID w/32MB SDRAM		$439
RAID3200S	As 2100S with 2 channels, 64 bit		$729
RAID3400S	As 2100S with 4 channels, 64 bit		$979
ABM100KIT	Battery backed module for 3000S series RAID controllers		$229
AMM232KIT	32MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers		$165
AMM264KIT	64MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers		$279

ARCO COMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC.

- Hardware RAID 1 (mirroring) works with most operating systems.
- Jumperless design, 100% data redundancy, 4 drive support
- Works off of existing IDE controller

ISA (ARDUPLIDISK) $189 PCI (ARDUPLIPCI) $195

Tekram

We are really impressed with these controllers. High quality at a very hot price. check them out!

DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	$25
DC395U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	$49
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	$79
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	$135
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	$159
DC390U3W	1 Ultra 160 Channel & 1 Ultra Wide channel kit	$229

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC.

ULTRA66	PCI, Supports Ultra-66 IDE drives	$29
ULTRA100	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-100 drives	$49
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	$95
FASTTRAK100	PCI, SUPPORTS ULTRA ATA-100 RAID 0+1	$125

We're not just drives anymore. You've asked us for more, and we're giving it to you. If you need other computer equipment and supplies, call us.

The same high quality commitment you have received from us for over a decade is now bigger and better than ever before — and growing!

WE KNOW RAID

Dirt Cheap Drives can custom configure a RAID tower to meet your needs. Here are a few popular components. We stock many other RAID components. Check us out on the web or give us a call.

IDE RAID CASES

Tower Model

Incredible quality. Extremely well built. Just add up to 6 IDE drives of any capacity, and an Ultra Wide SCSI controller to your computer and you are ready for high performance, fault tolerant RAID. Features hot swap drive shuttles, 4 cooling fans, and redundant hot swap power supplies. Run as RAID 0 or 5. Supports all major operating systems.

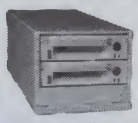
Tower Model Entry level IDE RAID Array(IDERAIDCASE) $1829

Rack Mount Model Entry level IDE RAID Array (IDERAIDRACK) $1979

Ask about our High End IDE RAID Arrays

RAID SUITABLE ENCLOSURES

These hard drive enclosures are perfect for RAID or multiple drive applications. They feature hot swapable drive shuttles, and large cooling fans. These cases use a special backplane technology that allows you to use Wide SCSI, Ultra Wide SCSI, or Ultra-2,LVD hard drives without the normal cable length problems. Add drives and a DPT or Adaptec RAID controller for your complete high end RAID solution.



2 Drive Desktop Model (FHCASEUSW) $589

Also available in SCA models 2- $589 4- $745

4 Drive Desktop Model (DUALCASEUSW) $745

		PLASTIC	BLACK
7 Drive Desktop Model			
(QUADCASEUSW)	U,UW, W	$1229	$1249
(QUADCASEU7)	SCA	$1259	$1279
8 Drive Desktop Model			
(QUADCASE8U2)	U,UW, W	$1339	$1359
(QUADCASEU2)	SCA	$1369	$1389

		PLASTIC	BLACK
7 Drive Desktop Model			
(RACKCASEUSW)	U,UW, W	$1259	$1279
(RACKCASEU7)	SCA	$1289	$1309
8 Drive Desktop Model			
(RACKCASE8U2)	U,UW, W	$1369	$1389
(RACKCASEU2)	SCA	$1399	$1419

IDE RAID 1

IDE RAID has never been this easy. Simply install the bay mount RAID controller unit in a 3.5" drive bay, connect two same size IDE hard drives and boot-up. The unit does the rest for you. Totally transparent and requires no special command. Provides RAID 1 mirroring and features an audible alarm to alert you of drive failure. This is a great product. (ARDUPRAID) $199

Same unit in 5.25" bay ready mount (ARDUPS.25) $209

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Axis Storpoint CD/DVD E100

THE ONLY SYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS MACINTOSH!

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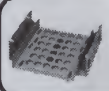
Shock Mount Bracket



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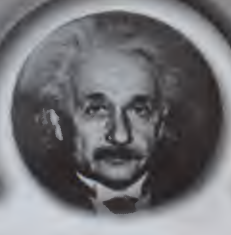

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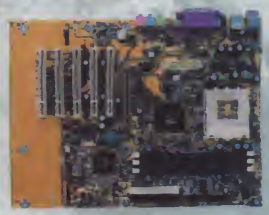

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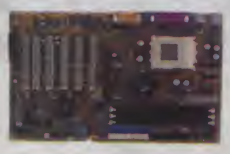

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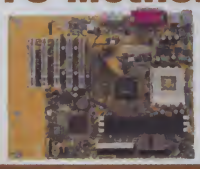

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MOTHERBOARDS

ABIT www.abit-usa.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
ABVA6	PIII-733	4	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$77
ABVT6X4	PIII-800	5	1	1	3/168	VIA133	ATX	$94
ABVH6	PIII-933	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	VIA133	ATX	$102
ABWX6	PPGA	5			2/168	810	ATX	$107
ABBF6	PIII-600	6	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$100
ABWB6	PIII-733	3	1	AMR	3/168	810E	ATX	$120
ABBE62	PIII-600	5	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$124
ABBX133	FCPGA	5	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$131
ABKA7	K7	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$141
ABKA7-100	K7	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$159
ABKT7	FCPGA	6	1	1	3/168	KT133	ATX	$159
ABKT7-RAID	FCPGA	6	1	1	3/168	KT133	ATX	$168

ASUS www.asus.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
ASP5AB	SOCKET7	3	2	1	3/168	M1541	AT	$86
ASP5A	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	M1541	ATX	$91
ASP299	PII-600	4	3	1	3/168	440ZX	ATX	$99
ASP299B	PII-600	3	2	1	3/168	440ZX	AT	$101
ASP3V4X	PII-733	6	1	1	4/168	VIA133	ATX	$109
ASP3W	PII-733	5	2		3/168	810	ATX	$98
ASCUV4X	FCPGA	5	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$118
ASP2BB	PII-600	3	2	1	3/168	440BX	AT	$122
ASP3BF	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$120
ASCUWE-RM	FCPGA	3		AMR	3/168	810	ATX	$126
ASCUA	FCPGA	6		AMR	3/168	ALI	ATX	$139
ASP3WE	PII-733	6		AMR	3/168	810	ATX	$139
ASK7V-WOA	K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$119
ASK7M-WA	K7	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$119
ASCUBX	FCPGA	6		1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$127
ASCUSL2	FCPGA	6	2CNR	1	3/168	815E	ATX	$147
ASA7V-WOA	SOCKET A K7	5		1+AMR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$149
ASK7V-WA	K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$124
ASP2BVM	PII-600	3	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$172
ASP3CE	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$186
ASP2BD	DUAL	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$266
ASP2BS	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$294
ASP2BLS	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$364
ASP3CD	DUAL	5		1	3/RIMM	820	ATX	$367
ASP2BDS	DUAL	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$439
ASP3CS	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$419

FIC www.fica.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
FICVA-503+	SOCKET7	3	3	1	3/168	VIA	AT	$69
FICPA-2013	SOCKET7	4	2	1	3/168	VIA/MVP	AT	$67
FICVB-601	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$84
FICVA-503A	SOCKET7	4	2	1	3/168	VIA/MVP	AT	$75
FICAZ11	SOCKET A K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$119

intel www.intel.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
INVC820WA	PIII-933	5	1	AMR	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$119
IND815EEA	370-933	5		CNR	3/168	815E	ATX	$145
INN440BX	DUAL	4	2		4/168	440BX	ATX	$369

MICROSTAR www.microstarinternational.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
MICMS-5169	SOCKET7	4	3	1	3/168	ALI	ATX	$79
MICMS-6153VA	FCPGA	3		AMR	2/168	ALI	ATX	$82
MICMS-6163PRO	PII-600	5	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$94
MICMS-6309	370-933	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$97
MICMS-6195	K7	6	1	1	3/168	AMD	ATX	$108
MICMS-6301	PII-733	5	1	1	3/168	820	ATX	$132
MICK7TPRO	SOCKET A K7	6		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$149
MICMS-815PRO	370-933	6		CNR	4/168	815E	ATX	$155
MICK7TPRO100	SCKTAK7	6		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$150
MICMS-694DPRO	DUAL370	5		1+CNR	4/168	815E	ATX	$182

TYAN www.tyan.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
TYS1590S	SOCKET7	4	4	1	3/168	VIA	AT	$89
TYS1598S	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$94
TYS1854	PPGA/SLOT1	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$96
TYS1830S	PII-550	3	3	1	4/168	449BX	AT	$112
TYS1598C2	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$113
TYS2380	K7	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$116
TYS1834	DUAL	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$143
TYS1832DL	DUAL	4	1	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$166
TYS1952DLU	DUALXEON	5	1	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	$529
TYS2257DUAN	DUAL	6	1	1	4/168	840	ATX	$619

CPU'S

ALL CPU'S HAVE A 1 YEAR WARRANTY WHEN PURCHASED WITH A CPU FAN. Those marked as "BOXED" have a 3 year warranty.

intel www.intel.com

INTEL	CELERON-A PPGA	533MHZ	128K	$89
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	533MHZ	128K	$95
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	566MHZ	128K	$97
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	600MHZ	128K	$99
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	633MHZ	128K	$103
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA	667MHZ	128K	$119
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ	256K FCPGA	$167
INTEL	PENTIUM III	600MHZ	256K FCPGA	$170
INTEL	PENTIUM III	650MHZ	256K FCPGA	$169
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ	256K FCPGA	$186
INTEL	PENTIUM III	700MHZ	256K FCPGA	$189
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ	256K FCPGA	$192
INTEL	PENTIUM III	750MHZ	256K FCPGA	$229
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	800MHZ	256K FCPGA	$239
INTEL	PENTIUM III	800MHZ	256K FCPGA	$244
INTEL	PENTIUM III	850MHZ	256K FCPGA	$334
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	866MHZ	256K FCPGA	$357
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	933MHZ	256K FCPGA	$499
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	1000MHZ	256K FCPGA	$629
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ	256K SECC	$174
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ	512K SECC	$174
INTEL	PENTIUM III	600MHZ	256K SECC	$177
INTEL	PENTIUM III	600MHZ	512K SECC	$164
INTEL	PENTIUM III	650MHZ	256K SECC	$184
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ	256K SECC	$185
INTEL	PENTIUM III	700MHZ	256K SECC	$197
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ	256K SECC	$199
INTEL	PENTIUM III	750MHZ	256K SECC	$236
INTEL	PENTIUM III	800MHZ	256K SECC	$259
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	800MHZ	256K SECC	$249
INTEL	PENTIUM III	850MHZ	256K SECC	$354
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	866MHZ	256K SECC	$369
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	933MHZ	256K SECC	$509
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	1000MHZ	256K SECC	$629

AMD www.amd.com

AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P400MHZ (100 MHZ)	$45
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P450MHZ (100 MHZ)	$46
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P500MHZ (100 MHZ)	$49
AMD	DURON	P600MHZ (200 MHZ)	$67
AMD	DURON	P650MHZ (200 MHZ)	$80
AMD	DURON	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$100
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$147
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$156
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$179
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$237
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P900MHZ (200 MHZ)	$274
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P950MHZ (200 MHZ)	$369
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	$479
AMD	K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P650MHZ (200 MHZ)	$129
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AMD	K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$157
AMD	K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$179
AMD	K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$244
AMD	K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P900MHZ (200 MHZ)	$279
AMD	K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P950MHZ (200 MHZ)	$369
AMD	K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	$479
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$149
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$159
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$179
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$239
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P900MHZ (200 MHZ)	$275
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P950MHZ (200 MHZ)	$362
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	$479
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P1100MHZ (200 MHZ)	$699

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CREATIVE www.creative.com

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CL4520O	SOUND BLSTR AWE 64 ISA OEM	$28
CL4750O	SOUND BLSTR PCI 128 OEM	$31
CL4830O	SOUND BLSTR LIVE VALUE PCI OEM	$47
CLXGAMERR	SOUND BLSTR LIVE X-GAMER RETAIL	$90
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CLPLATINUMR	SOUND BLSTR LIVE PLATINUM RET	$177

MEMORY

72-PIN NON-PARITY

8MB	2X32	60NS	$7
16MB	4X32	60NS	$37
32MB	8X32	60NS	$74
64MB	16X32	60NS	$107

72-PIN TRUE PARITY

16MB	4X36	60NS	$39
32MB	8X36	60NS	$82
64MB	16X36	60NS	$132
128MB	32X36	60NS	$319

72-PIN EDO

16MB	4X32 EDO	60NS	$35
32MB	8X32 EDO	60NS	$64
64MB	16X32 EDO	60NS	$54
128MB	32X32 EDO	60NS	$219

168-PIN LONG DIMMS EDO

64MB	8X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$95
64MB	8X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$117
64MB	8X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$139
128MB	16X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$189
128MB	16X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$212
128MB	16X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$222
256MB	32X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$429

168-PIN LONG DIMMS SDRAM WITH EPROM (66MHz)

32MB	4X64	10NS	$33
64MB	8X64	10NS	$66
128MB	16X64	10NS	$128

168-PIN SDRAM WITH EPROM PC100/133

32MB	4X64	8NS	$33
64MB	8X64	8NS	$61
64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$59
64MB	8X72	8NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$72
128MB	16X64	8NS	$119
128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$119
128MB	16X72	8NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$147
128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$154
256MB	32X64	8NS	$262
256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$254
256MB	32X72	8NS	$304
256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$319
512MB	64X72	8NS	$519

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matrox www.matrox.com

MATMEC200	G200 8MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (FIXED)	$53
MAT400SDR16	G400 16MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (SING)	$85
MAT400DUAL32	G400 32MB, SGRAM AGP OEM (DUAL)	$132
MAT400MAXD32	G400 32MB, SGRAM AGP OEM (DUAL)	$194

DIAMOND www.diamondmm.com

DIV770-2S432MB	VIPER V770-2 W/TV 32MB AGP OEM	$84

ATI www.atitech.com

ATIX998A	EXPERT 99 AGP OEM VER 8MB	$52
ATIXR16A	EXPERT RAGE AGP OEM VER 16MB	$57
ATIX200032A	EXPERT 2000 AGP OEM VER 32MB	$66
ATIRFPRO16	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 16MB W/TV	$87
ATIRFPRO32	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	$97
ATIAIW16A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 16MB	$119
ATIRFMAX64	RAGE FURY MAX AGP OEM 64MB W/TV	$114
ATIAIW32A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	$154
ATIAIW32PCI	ALL-IN-WONDER PCI OEM 32MB W/TV	$164
ATIAIWPRO32A	ALL-IN-WONDER PRO AGP OEM 32MB	$169
ATIRADEON32A	RADEON AGP OEM 32MB DDR	$242
ATIRADEON64A	RADEON AGP OEM 64MB DDR	$289

STB www.stb.com

STB200016MB	3DFX VOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB	$63
STB200016MPCI	3DFX VOODOO 3 PCI OEM 16MB	$79
STB300016MB	3DFX VOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB NOTV	$79
STB300016MBTV	3DFX VOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB TV	$81
STB350016MBTV	3DFX VOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB TV	$152
STB550064MB	3DFX VOODOO 5 AGP OEM 64MB	$254

ASUS www.asus.com

ASV710016ATV	GEFORCE-2 MX AGP OEM 16MB TV	$104
ASV710032ATV	GEFORCE-2 MX AGP OEM 32MB TV	$139
ASV6600DEL32A	GEFORCE DEL AGP OEM 32MB	$189
ASV6800P32A	GEFORCE AGP OEM 32MB DDR	$187
ASV7700P32A	GEFORCE-2 AGP OEM 32MB DDR	$254
ASV6800DEL32A	GEFORCE DEL AGP OEM 32MB DDR	$219
ASV6800P64A	GEFORCE AGP OEM 64MB DDR	$297
ASV7700DEL32A	GEFORCE-2 DEL AGP OEM 32MB DDR	$289

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WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD75DA*	7500	9.5MS/4500	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$63
WD102AA*	10200	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$75
WD136AA*	13600	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$82
WD153AA*	15300	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$83
WD102BA*	10200	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$92
WD153BA*	15300	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$106
WD205AA*	20500	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$92
WD205BA*	20500	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$115
WD307AA*	30700	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$117
WD450AA*	45000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$169

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM305030*	30000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$126
IBM307030*	30000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$145
IBM305040*	40000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$158
IBM307045*	45000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$219
IBM307060*	60000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$397
IBM307075*	75000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$509

Maxtor® www.maxtor.com

ALL MAXTOR IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX1025400*	10200	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$72
MAX1027200*	10200	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$88
MAX1535400*	15300	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$76
MAX1537200*	15300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$95
MAX2045400*	20400	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$87
MAX2047200*	20400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$115
MAX3075400*	30700	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$109
MAX3077200*	30700	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$144
MAX4095400*	40900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$148
MAX4097200*	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$197
MAX4615400*	46100	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$160
MAX6145400*	61400	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$219

Quantum www.quantum.com

ALL QUANTUM IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
QU310200LB*	10200	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$84
QU315000LB*	15000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$85
QU315000LM*	15000	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$99
QU320400LB*	20400	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$102
QU320500LM*	20500	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$121
QU326000LA*	26000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$107
QU330000LB*	30000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1"H	$129
QU330000LM*	30000	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$159

Ultra Narrow & Wide SCSI DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL

www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD91FG	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$162
WD9150U160	9100	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$179
WD18310LW	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$241
WD18310U160	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$254

Seagate

www.seagate.com

ALL SEAGATE SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST39236LW	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
ST39216W	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
ST39216N	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
ST318416N	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$319
ST318416W	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$319
ST318436LW	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$319
ST318404LW	18400	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$379
ST136475LW	36400	7.6MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/FH	$729
ST336704LW	36700	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$629
ST173404LW	73400	5.6MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$1099

REMOVABLES

IOMEGA www.iomega.com

IOZIP100IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM	$52
IOZIP100SCSI	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB INT ZIP	SCSI OEM	$79
IOZIP250IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM	$88
IOZIP100USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB EXT ZIP	USB	$119
IOZIP250USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB EXT ZIP	USB	$167
IOSCSI2GBINT	REMOVABLE DRIVE	2GB INT JAZ	SCSI	$272
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MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
TO6702B	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	256K	$41
TO6401	40X/6000KB	SCSI-2	85MS	256K	$65
TODM1402BARE	12X-40X DVD	ATAPI	135/90MS	256K	$109

MITSUMI

www.mitsumi.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
MITFX4820	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$41
MITCDRW4804TE	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	$116
MITCDRW4804TER	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI RETAIL	135MS	2048K	$132

YAMAHA

www.yamaha.com

MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW8424SOEM	8X/4X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$187
YACRW8424EOEM	8X/4X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$151
YACRW8424E	8X/4X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$189
YACRW8824SOEM	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$179
YACRW8824EOEM	8X/8X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$169
YACRW8824S	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$205
YACRW8824E	8X/8X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$169

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SY48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$40
SYCRX140ECHOEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$157
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$172
SYCRX140S/CH	8X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	$222
SYCRX145E/CH	10X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$227

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TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

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MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
TO4313MAT	4300	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/8.4MM	$112
TO6015MAP	6000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$117
TO1214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$160
TO1814GAV	18100	13MS/4200	1048K	2.5"/12MM	$239
TO2016GAP	20000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$241

IBM www.ibm.com

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IBM206000	6000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	$129
IBM212000	12000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$165
IBM218000	18000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$249
IBM225000	25000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/17MM	$514

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3Com www.3com.com

3C905BTXNM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT NO REMOTE WAKE PCI	$41
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CREATIVE www.creative.com

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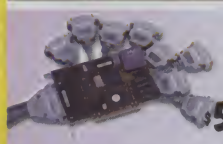

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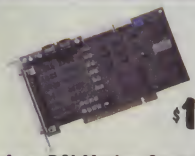

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BP201	1	3	0	1	✓		✓	$42.99
BP202	1	3	2	1	✓		✓	$50.99
BP203	1	3	3	1	✓		✓	$57.99
BP204	1	3	3	2	✓		✓	$63.99
BP205	1	7	0	1	✓	✓	✓	$189.99
BP206	1	4	4	2	✓		✓	$71.99
BP207	1	4	6	2	✓		✓	$74.99
BP208	2	6	4	3	✓		✓	$82.99
BP209	1	4	8	2	✓		✓	Call
BP210	1	4	8	2	✓		✓	$84.99
BP211	1	7	5	2	✓	✓	✓	$212.99
BP212	1	12	1	1	✓	✓	✓	$305.99
BP213	4	8	4	4	✓		✓	$113.99
BP214	2	8	6	4	✓		✓	$115.99
BP215	1	4	13	2	✓		✓	$115.99
BP216	1	12	2	5	✓	✓	✓	$351.99
BP217	1	18	0	1	✓	✓	✓	$420.99

ISA-Bus Backplane Series Selection Guide

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			PS/2	ATX	Screw	
BP218	1	3	✓		✓	$25.99
BP219	1	4	✓		✓	$29.99
BP220	1	5	✓		✓	$31.99
BP221	1	6	✓		✓	$34.99
BP222	1	8	✓		✓	$42.99
BP223	2	10	✓		✓	$52.99
BP224	1	12	✓		✓	$53.99
BP225	7	14	✓		✓	$57.99
BP226	2	20	✓		✓	$99.99

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Super7™

	Part Number	Chip Set	L2 Cache (KB)	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	72-pin SIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/AMD-K6®-2/500	w/AMD-K6-2/550	w/Intel® Pentium® MMX™ 233MHz
EPoX EP-MVP3C2	MB5406	VIA Apollo MVP3	512	384	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	4	2	1	Baby AT	2 Yrs.	$85	$145	$173	$145
EPoX EP-MVP3G5	MB5405	VIA Apollo MVP3	2048	384	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	$110	$170	$198	$170
FIC VA-503+	MB5211	VIA Apollo MVP3	1024	512	2	4	Award			3	3	1	Baby AT	1 Yr.	$76	$136	$164	$136
Pine VA7-AV	MB5300	VIA Apollo MVP4	512	768	3		Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	2		ATX	3 Yrs.	$93	$153	$181	$153
Tyan S1590S Trinity 100AT	MB5006	VIA Apollo MVP3	1024	384	3	2	Award			4	4	1	Mini AT	3 Yrs.	$99	$159	$187	$159

Slot A

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Bus Frequency	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/AMD Athlon™ 800MHz	w/AMD Athlon 850MHz	w/AMD Athlon 900MHz	w/AMD Athlon 950MHz	w/AMD Athlon 1000MHz	w/AMD Athlon 1100MHz
ABIT KA7-100	MB7502	VIA Apollo KX133	2048	4	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/100	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$189	$394	$414	$479	$524	$629	$769
Asus K7V	MB7703	VIA Apollo KX133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5		1	ATX	1 Yr	$155	$360	$380	$445	$490	$595	$735
EPoX EP-7KXA	MB7850	VIA Apollo KX133	768	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	$120	$325	$345	$410	$455	$560	$700
Shuttle AI61	MB7901	AMD-750	768	3	Award	100	UltraDMA/66	5		1	MicroATX	1 Yr.	$93	$298	$318	$383	$428	$533	$673
Tyan S2380 Trinity K7	MB7000	VIA Apollo KX133	768	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$121	$326	$346	$411	$456	$561	$701

Socket A

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Bus Frequency	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/AMD Duron™ 600MHz	w/AMD Duron 650MHz	w/AMD Duron 700MHz	w/AMD Duron 750MHz	w/AMD Athlon™ 800MHz with Enhanced Cache	w/AMD Athlon 850MHz with Enhanced Cache	w/AMD Athlon 900MHz with Enhanced Cache	w/AMD Athlon 950MHz with Enhanced Cache	w/AMD Athlon 1000MHz with Enhanced Cache	w/AMD Athlon 1100MHz with Enhanced Cache
ABIT KTV	MB7503	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$173	$244	$258	$273	$303	$378	$398	$463	$508	$613	$753
ABIT KTV-RAID	MB7504	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	DMA/100 RAID	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$199	$270	$284	$299	$329	$404	$424	$489	$534	$639	$779
ASUS A7V	MB7704	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/100	5		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$175	$246	$260	$275	$305	$380	$400	$465	$510	$615	$755
EPoX EP-8KTA	MB7851	VIA Apollo KT133	768	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	2 Yr.	$127	$198	$212	$227	$257	$332	$352	$417	$462	$567	$707
FIC AZ11	MB7402	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$128	$199	$213	$228	$258	$333	$353	$418	$463	$568	$708
Microstar K7T Pro	MB7203	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$147	$218	$232	$247	$277	$352	$372	$437	$482	$587	$727
Tyan S2390 Trinity KT	MB7001	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	3 Yr.	$147	$218	$232	$247	$277	$352	$372	$437	$482	$587	$727

Slot 1

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	168-pin RIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Formaw	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/Intel® Pentium III® 667 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 733 256K DD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 800/EB 256K OD 100/133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 850 256K OD 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 933 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 1000 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Pentium III 800 256K OD 100MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Pentium III 650 256K OD 100MHz FSB
ABIT BE6-II	MB6508	Intel 440BX	768	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$140	N/A	N/A	$380	$440	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ABIT BX133-RAID	MB6513	Intel 440BX	768	3		Award		DMA/100 RAID	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$169	N/A	N/A	$409	$469	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ABIT VT6X4	MB6510	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3		Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$103	$308	$343	$343	$403	$533	$678	N/A	N/A
ASUS P2B-DS (Dual)	MB6707	Intel 440BX	1024	4		Award			4	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$509	N/A	N/A	$749	$809	N/A	N/A	$989	$1109
ASUS P3B-F	MB6720	Intel 440BX	1024	4		Award			6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$145	N/A	N/A	$385	$445	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ASUS P3V4X	MB6723	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	1024	4		Award		UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$133	$338	$373	$373	$433	$563	$708	N/A	N/A
Intel L440GX+ (Dual)	MB6917	Intel 440GX	2048	4		Intel/Phoenix		Adaptec 2-Ch U2W	6	1		ATX	3 Yrs.	$544	N/A	N/A	$784	$844	N/A	N/A	$1024	$1144
Intel SE440BX-2 "Seattle"	MB6921	Intel 440BX	768	3		Intel/Phoenix			4	2	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$120	N/A	N/A	$360	$420	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shuttle AV64	MB6309	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3		Award		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$96	$301	$336	$336	$396	$526	$671	N/A	N/A
SuperMicro P6DGU (Dual)	MB6122	Intel 440GX	2048	4		AMI		Adaptec U2W	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$485	N/A	N/A	$725	$785	N/A	N/A	$965	$1085
SuperMicro P6SBA	MB6120	Intel 440BX	768	3		AMI			4	3	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$103	N/A	N/A	$343	$403	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SuperMicro P6SBU	MB6128	Intel 440BX	1024	4		AMI		Adaptec U2W	4	3	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$343	N/A	N/A	$583	$643	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tyan S1834 Tiger 133 (Dual)	MB6020	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	2048	4		Award		UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$162	$367	$402	$402	$462	$592	$737	$642	$762

Socket 370

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Video	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	AMR or CNR Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/Intel® Celeron™ 600 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Intel Celeron 700 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Intel Celeron 733 128K OD 66MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium® III 667 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 733 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 800/EB 256K DD 100/133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 850 256K OD 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 866 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 933 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Intel Pentium III 1000 256K OD 133MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Pentium III 800EB 256K OD 133MHz FSB
ABIT SE6	MB6512	Intel 815E	768	3	Award	Intel 815E	Intel 815E	6		1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$169	$269	$289	$314	$374	$409	$409	$469	$469	$599	$744	N/A
ABIT VH6	MB6511	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award	AC-97		5	1	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$113	$213	$233	$258	$318	$353	$353	$413	$413	$543	$688	N/A
ASUS CUBX	MB6726	Intel 440BX	1024	4	Award	AC-97		6	1	1		ATX	1 Yr.	$149	$249	$269	$294	N/A	N/A	$389	$449	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ASUS CUSL2	MB6727	Intel 815E	1536	3	Award	Intel 815E	Intel 815E	5	1	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$174	$274	$294	$319	$379	$414	$414	$474	$474	$604	$749	N/A
ASUS CUR-DLS (Dual)	MB6728	ServerWorks LE	4096	4	Award		RAGE-XL	7				ATX	1 Yr.	$599	$699	$719	$744	$804	$839	$839	$899	$899	$1029	$1174	$1079
ASUS CUV4X	MB6725	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	1536	3	Award	AC-97		5	1	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$133	$233	$253	$278	$338	$373	$373	$433	$433	$563	$708	N/A
EPoX EP-3VCA2	MB6856	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award	AC-97		5		1	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	$109	$209	$229	$254	$314	$349	$349	$409	$409	$539	$684	N/A
Intel D815EEA "Easton"	MB6922	Intel 815E	512	3	Award	Intel 815E	Intel 815E	5		1	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	$168	$268	$288	$313	$373	$408	$408	$468	$468	$598	$743	N/A
Shuttle AV14	MB6311	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award			5	2	1		ATX	1 Yr.	$99	$199	$219	$244	$304	$339	$339	$399	$399	$529	$674	N/A
Shuttle ME21	MB6312	Intel 815E	512	2	Award	Intel 815E	Intel 815E	3		1	1	Micro ATX	1 Yr.	$144	$244	$264	$289	$349	$384	$384	$444	$444	$574	$719	N/A
Shuttle ME64	MB6310	Intel 810E	512	2	Award	Intel 810E	Intel 810E	3			1	Micro ATX	1 Yr.	$118	$218	$238	$263	$323	$358	$358	$418	$418	$548	$693	N/A
SuperMicro 370SEA	MB6140	Intel 810E	512	2	AMI	Intel 810E	Intel 810E	6	1		1	ATX	1 Yr.	$142	$242	$262	$287	$347	$382	$382	$442	$442	$572	$717	N/A
SuperMicro 370SSA	MB6140	Intel 815E	512	2	AMI	Intel 815E	Intel 815E	6		1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	$162	$262	$282	$307	$367	$402	$402	$462	$462	$592	$737	N/A
SuperMicro 370DLE (Dual)	MB6154	ServerWorks LE	2048	2	AMI			6	1			ATX	1 Yr	$342	$442	$462	$487	$547	$582	$582	$642	$642	$772	$917	$822
SuperMicro 370DL3 (Dual)	MB6155	ServerWorks LE	2048	2	AMI			6	1			ATX	1 Yr.	$545	$645	$665	$690	$750	$785	$785	$845	$845	$975	$1120	$1025
Tyan S1854 Trinity 400	MB6018	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award			6	1	1		ATX	3 Yrs.	$109	$209	$229	$254	$314	$349	$349	$409	$409	$539	$684	N/A

Slot 2

	Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Video	Integrated Controller	Integrated Networking	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Format	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	w/Intel® Pentium III® Xeon™ 550MHz 512K 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Xeon 550MHz 1M 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Xeon 550MHz 2M 100MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Xeon 550MHz 512K 100MHz	w/Quad Intel Xeon 550MHz 512K 100MHz	w/Intel Xeon 700MHz 1M 100MHz FSB	w/Intel Xeon 700MHz 2M 100MHz FSB	w/Dual Intel Xeon 700MHz 1M 100MHz	w/Quad Intel Xeon 700MHz 1M 100MHz
SuperMicro S2DL3	MB6163	ServerWorks LE	4096	4	AMI			Adaptec Ultra160	Intel 82552	6	1		ATX	1 Yr.	$676	$1776	$3006	$5016	$2876	N/A	$2076	$3026	$3476	N/A
SuperMicro S2QR6	MB6190	ServerWorks HE	16384	16	AMI			Adaptec 2-Ch Ultra160	Intel 82559	8			SWTX	1 Yr.	$2799	$3899	$5129	$7139	$4999	$7199	$4199	$5149	$5599	$8399

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3Com 56K V.90 Internal.....$96.99
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Toshiba SD-M1402 12X/40X ATAPI DVD ...$113.99
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Tosh. SD-R1002 4X4X4X24X CDRW/DVD .$249.99
REALmagic Hollywood+ DVD Decoder $66.99
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Acer 50X ATAPI CD-ROM.....$45.99
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- V.90 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
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- 3-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]
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- 5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™-M1 3D® Video
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